

Post-Hearing Questions for the Record
Submitted to Peter C. Grevatt, Ph.D.
Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water
Office of Water
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment
Hearing on “Perfluorinated Chemicals in the Environment: An Update on the Response to
Contamination and Challenges Presented”
September 6, 2018

The Honorable John Shimkus

1. Your testimony states that there are "many PFAS chemicals."

a. What is the correct number?

Approximately 1,220 PFAS are on the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Inventory, which is a list of chemical substances that are manufactured, processed, or imported in the United States for uses under TSCA. Of these, approximately 550 have been reported as having been in US commerce in the past 10 years. The OECD estimates that 4,730 PFAS-related compounds have been identified globally.

b. Of the chemicals in the PFAS class -

i. How many of them are well-understood?

Few if any of the PFAS are “well understood.” Data on human health effects are not available on the majority of PFAS. Even for those compounds for which some animal studies have been done, the studies do not cover all health effects. As such, many questions remain unanswered.

Our scientific understanding of PFAS compounds stems almost entirely from studies on a select few. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) have been manufactured the longest, are the most widespread in the environment, and are the most well-studied. The EPA has established health advisories for PFOA and PFOS, in drinking water and released two draft toxicity assessments (perfluorobutane sulfonate, PFBS and hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid and ammonium salt, GenX chemicals) in November 2018 for public review. The EPA is working to develop computational toxicity screening tools to better understand the many PFAS in commerce and the environment.

ii. For how many is the Agency missing health effects data?

Although the EPA does not have health information for the majority of PFAS, the Agency is working to move research forward to better understand how available epidemiological and toxicological data on PFAS (such as PFOA and PFOS) can be applied to inform our knowledge of other PFAS. For those PFAS that have been reviewed by the EPA’s new chemicals program, the EPA has relied on available data on PFAS for which data already exist and/or have requested additional data be generated.

2. EPA has very robust authority under the reforms made to title I of the Toxic Substances Control Act to require the production of new information on a chemical substance. If there is so little known about PFAS health effects data, why isn't EPA using this authority to quickly fill these information gaps?

The EPA has made it a priority to identify what data needs to be generated on what types of PFAS to better understand the impacts of PFAS. Once we know this, we will be better positioned to identify the appropriate TSCA authorities to obtain this data. Under Section 4 of TSCA, the EPA may require testing or development of information if such information is needed to evaluate a chemical. In addition, the EPA may, as appropriate and consistent with the requirements of TSCA, require testing under section 4 or reporting of information under Section 8 to prioritize and evaluate existing chemicals.

3. How similar are the chemicals in the PFAS class to each other - in other words, do they all act the same in the environment, do they all have the same effect on the human body?

Based on differences in structure, not all PFAS will act the same in the environment or have the same effect on the human body, but some may have similar impacts. Due to their strong carbon-fluorine bonds, PFAS are very stable in the environment. Differences associated with chain length, chemical structure, and functional groups incorporated into individual PFAS have important implications for mobility within the environment and uptake, metabolism, clearance, and toxicity in the human body.

4. Your testimony mentions that "there is evidence that exposure to certain PFAS may lead to adverse health effects." This sounds scary, but you just mentioned that the majority of PFAS chemicals are not well understood.

- a. Is there a difference in certainty between "there is evidence" and "science demonstrates"?

Evidence suggesting adverse health effects may happen is more speculative and less conclusive than "science demonstrates."

- b. What are the "certain PFAS" that "may"?

The majority of research on the potential health risks associated with PFAS exposure is based on laboratory animal and human epidemiological studies of long-chain PFAS, such as PFOA and PFOS. Exposure to certain PFAS, such as PFOA and PFOS, above certain levels are suspected to cause adverse effects on human health based on results from animal studies and epidemiological studies of human populations. As NIH testified on September 26 before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management, our understanding of the health effects associated with PFAS and our ability to draw conclusions regarding the contribution of any specific PFAS to human disease is based on combined data from multiple studies investigating epidemiologic associations in human cohort studies, biological plausibility and pathways in animal studies, mechanistic effects seen in human tissues and cell culture systems, and rapid high-throughput screening. It is important to note that epidemiologic association studies cannot definitively find causation, and while animal studies are an important marker of scientific discovery, they are not perfect predictors of human effect. However, by combining and carefully

considering data from independent studies, we can begin to build an understanding of how PFAS chemicals impact human health.

Depending on the PFAS, potential adverse effects may include developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy and to breastfed infants (e.g., low birth weight, accelerated puberty, skeletal variations), cancer (e.g., testicular, kidney), liver and kidney effects (e.g., tissue damage), immune effects (e.g., changes in antibody production and acquired immunity), thyroid effects, neurotoxicity, and other effects (e.g., in total serum cholesterol).

c. Are all PFAS toxic?

The EPA is working to gain an understanding of potential human health impacts of PFAS. Due to the similarities in the compounds to well-studied PFAS, such as PFOA and PFOS, it is anticipated that additional PFAS may be of concern to human health. Not all of the approximately 550 PFAS reported as having been in U.S. commerce in the past 10 years have been studied. The toxicity of PFAS is dependent on a number of factors which likely depend on existing body burden, the number of PFAS individuals are exposed to, the chemical identity of PFAS, the life stage and gender of the receptor, along with the duration of exposure. Toxicity alone is not sufficient to determine whether PFAS present risk: potential for exposure to people also needs to be estimated.

5. Your testimony talked about the health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion (ppt), individually or combined, for PFOA and PFOS. How low of a reading can existing monitors detect these contaminants?

The EPA laboratory that developed Method 537 (published September 2009) identified quantitation limits ("Lowest Concentration Minimum Reporting Levels" [LCMRL]) for PFOA and PFOS of 5.1 ppt (ng/L) and 6.5 ppt (ng/L), respectively. Laboratories have developed experience with PFAS analyses since Method 537 was published and some are now able to quantify at lower levels. In November 2018, the EPA updated Method 537 (537.1) to include an additional 4 PFAS and lowered the quantification limit for PFOA and PFOS to 0.82 ppt (ng/L) and 2.7 ppt (ng/L) respectively.

6. Today's hearing has raised questions about EPA being able to protect vulnerable subpopulations from adverse health effects.

a. To do that, wouldn't the Agency necessarily have to do aggregate and cumulative exposure analyses?

No, not necessarily. There are things that can be done to protect vulnerable subpopulations from adverse health effects without conducting aggregate and cumulative exposure analyses. Some examples include encouraging or requiring substitution of hazardous chemicals with safer alternatives or developing risk management guidance and exposure limits based on a toxicological reference value.

b. Does the Agency have an agreed upon protocol for doing aggregate exposure assessments?

The EPA does not have a single protocol for doing aggregate exposure assessments. Different program offices within the EPA are charged with implementing different environmental laws.

Each law has its own regulations and requirements in terms of the kind of assessments needed, which may require protocols to differ.

- c. Does the Agency have an agreed upon protocol for doing cumulative exposure assessments?

The EPA does not have a single protocol for doing cumulative exposure assessments. Different program offices within the EPA are charged with implementing different environmental laws. Each law has its own regulations and requirements in terms of the kind of assessments needed, which may require protocols to differ.

7. For site remediation of PFAS,

- a. What are the available methods that may be deployed?

The following methods have been tested and shown to be effective at removing certain PFAS from groundwater:

- *Granular activated carbon*
- *Powdered activated carbon*
- *Anion exchange resin*
- *Reverse osmosis*
- *Nanofiltration*

In addition to contaminated groundwater, remediation of contaminated soil and other solids may be feasible through:

- *Incineration*
- *Land disposal in a lined, permitted landfill*
- *Solidification/stabilization*

Additional remediation technologies for soil and groundwater are under development and assessments by researchers may provide additional cleanup alternatives for PFAS contamination. Remediation effectiveness can vary based on the specific PFAS.

- b. What is the Federal government doing to ensure communities have sufficient information to assess the public health benefits against the cost for deploying these systems?

At EPA-led sites, the EPA provides information to communicate the hazards, exposures, risks and uncertainties associated with PFAS as information becomes available. At sites where the EPA is a support agency, the EPA collaborates with the lead organization to promote appropriate communication regarding PFAS. Further, the EPA provides information to communities through its [PFAS website](#) and social media. On a national level, the EPA is working to develop a PFAS Management Plan using information from the EPA's May 2018 PFAS National Leadership Summit, community engagements, and public comments submitted to the agency. The management plan will provide the EPA's approach on identifying and understanding PFAS, the agency's actions to address PFAS, and effective strategies for communicating with the public on PFAS.

8. For drinking water systems,

- a. What are the available remediation methods that communities may deploy to address PFAS contamination?

Treatment options which have been tested and are known to address certain PFAS in drinking water include activated carbon (granular or powdered), ion exchange, and membrane separation (reverse osmosis, and nanofiltration). These remediation options may generate waste containing PFAS, which will need to be disposed of properly. More information can be found in the EPA's Drinking Water Treatability Database:
<https://oaspub.epa.gov/tdb/pages/general/home.do>

- b. How effective are these?

The effectiveness of these drinking water treatment methods will depend on multiple aspects of the treatment process including the properties of the specific PFAS compounds being remediated, properties of source water, treatment capabilities and operation of the system, as well as competing treatment priorities for other regulated contaminants. The following processes were found to be effective for the removal of certain PFAS:

- granular activated carbon (GAC) (up to > 98 percent)
- membrane separation (up to > 99 percent)
- ion exchange (up to > 99 percent).

These results cover the removal of specific PFAS including perfluorodecanoate (PFDA), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHxA), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA), and PFBS.

The following drinking water treatment techniques and the effectiveness of each are presented for PFOS:

- Granular activated carbon: highly effective for drinking water (at least 99% removal);
- Powdered activated carbon: effective for drinking water (between 75% and 99% removal);
- Anion exchange resin: effective for drinking water (between 75% and 99% removal);
- Reverse osmosis: highly effective for drinking water (at least 99% removal);
- Nanofiltration: highly effective for drinking water (at least 99% removal).

More information can be found in the EPA's Drinking Water Treatability Database:
<https://oaspub.epa.gov/tdb/pages/general/home.do>

- c. Are there other technologies being examined to address potential drinking water contamination?

Treatment using chlorine and advanced oxidation processes have been evaluated for their effectiveness at treating PFOS in drinking water but have not been found to be effective. The effectiveness of each treatment method will depend on the properties of the specific PFAS being remediated. The EPA continues to conduct research on additional technologies for addressing PFAS, working in collaboration with water utilities, universities, water treatment companies, and other federal agencies. As new information becomes available about effective technologies,

*it will be added to the EPA's Drinking Water Treatability Database
(<https://oaspub.epa.gov/tdb/pages/general/home.do>)*

9. Please explain how EPA is addressing emerging contaminants, such as PFAS, with respect to environmental cleanups?

The EPA is currently developing groundwater cleanup recommendations for PFOA and PFOS at contaminated sites.

10. When does EPA intend to have resolution on whether PFOA and PFOS are hazardous substances under Superfund?

The EPA is beginning the necessary steps to evaluate the designation of PFOA and PFOS as "hazardous substances" through one of the available statutory mechanisms, including potentially the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 102.

The Honorable Paul Tonko

1. National Management Plan

- a. What specific EPA actions are being considered as part of the National Management Plan?

The EPA is using the information gained from the National Leadership Summit, community engagements and public input to develop its PFAS Management Plan. The EPA may include short-term implementation actions, and long-term regulatory and research approaches that the EPA designed to reduce the health risks associated with certain PFAS in the environment. Taken together, the plan is being designed to help the EPA to better assist states, tribes, and local communities to protect public health.

- b. Will the Plan include a decision on whether or not to designate PFOA and/or PFOS as a hazardous substance under CERCLA?

Following the PFAS Summit in May, the EPA began an intensive effort to examine the statutory options that could be used if it determines it is appropriate to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances. Available statutes, including the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), TSCA, the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Clean Air Act (CAA), and CERCLA Section 102 are being considered, as well as the timing, benefits and challenges to pursue each option. The EPA has not used its authority under CERCLA Section 102(a) to designate a chemical as a hazardous substance directly under CERCLA. The EPA has concluded that any option to designate PFAS as a hazardous substance would require notice and comment rulemaking.

2. Dr. Grevatt, you mentioned building out capacity for labs to test for PFAS.

- a. How many labs in the United States are now capable of using Method 537 (or an EPA-approved method for testing for PFAS)?

States generally certify/accredit laboratories that support drinking water compliance monitoring for regulated contaminants. The EPA is aware that some states also offer (and others plan to offer) programs for laboratories that wish to be certified/accredited to analyze drinking water for unregulated contaminants such as PFAS using Method 537. For example, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services lists 20 analytical labs capable of analyzing PFAS (<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/documents/pfoa-testing-labs.pdf>.) The EPA is also aware that the Department of Defense (DOD) manages a PFAS laboratory accreditation program that lists DOD accredited labs (<https://www.denix.osd.mil/edqw/accreditation/accreditedlabs/>).

Any published list, however, is likely not inclusive of every laboratory in the U.S. capable of analyzing PFAS. Other federal or state agencies may have compiled their own lists of laboratories capable of providing analytical services for PFAS.

- b. What is the approximate cost of testing for PFAS at one of these labs?

Using EPA method 537, typically, the fee is approximately \$300 ± \$50 per sample. The analytical cost will depend on multiple factors: current demand for the analysis (high demand and low lab capacity = higher quoted fee), how many PFAS targets are requested for monitoring, and how many samples a specific client will be sending to the lab (volume discounts typically apply).

- c. While EPA is considering whether a regulatory determination should be made for PFOA and PFOS, are you also considering what financial or technical assistance options may be available for testing and treating the water of citizens relying upon private wells, which would not be bound by a MCL?

The EPA is currently investigating efficacy of commercially available point-of-use or point-of-entry applications. This work would inform private well owners of their risk management options. The EPA also provides technical assistance to laboratories analyzing drinking water samples on an as-needed basis.

The Honorable Scott H. Peters

1. Studies tracking PFOS in marine organisms and ocean waters, PFOS was added to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in 2009, and we are not party to that Convention but is EPA doing anything to monitor coastal waters for these compounds and are you working with other countries to control the spread of these contaminants?

While it is true that the United States is not a Party to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), it is a signatory to that Convention and is an active participant in its operation. To that end, the EPA does work with our international partners on emerging contaminant issues, including PFAS, through our observer status under the POPs Convention. The EPA's work on addressing such contaminants, however, is not limited to that forum. For example, the EPA monitors PFAS in fish in coastal waters via the Great Lakes Human Health Fish Fillet Tissue Study (fillet tissue only) and the Great Lakes Fish Monitoring and Surveillance Program (whole fish). Great Lakes work, in particular, is coordinated with Environment and Climate Change Canada, whenever possible.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 7, 2018

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable John Shimkus
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment
Committee on Energy and Commerce
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shimkus:

Enclosed please find the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's responses to the Subcommittee's Questions for the Record following the September 6, 2018, hearing on "Perfluorinated Chemicals in the Environment: An Update on the Response to Contamination and Challenges Presented."

If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "A. Ringel", is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Aaron Ringel
Deputy Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 7, 2018

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Paul Tonko
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment
Committee on Energy and Commerce
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Tonko:

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Aaron Ringel
Deputy Associate Administrator

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 20 2018

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Rand Paul
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight
and Emergency Management
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Paul:

Enclosed please find the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's responses to the Subcommittee's Questions for the Record following the September 26, 2018, hearing on "The Federal Role in the Toxic PFAS Chemical Crisis."

If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

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Troy M. Lyons
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 20 2018

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Gary C. Peters
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight
and Emergency Management
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ranking Member Peters:

Enclosed please find the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's responses to the Subcommittee's Questions for the Record following the September 26, 2018, hearing on "The Federal Role in the Toxic PFAS Chemical Crisis."

If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy M. Lyons", is written over the word "Sincerely,". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "T" and "L".

Troy M. Lyons
Associate Administrator

Enclosure

**Post-Hearing Questions for the Record
Submitted to Peter C. Grevatt, Ph.D.
Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water
Office of Water
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management
“The Federal Role in the Toxic PFAS Chemical Crisis” – September 26, 2018**

The Honorable Gary C. Peters

1. What steps is EPA taking to establish the methods for measuring PFAS in soil and groundwater?
What is the expected timeframe for these methods to be established and agreed upon nationally?

The EPA validated and published its original method (Method 537) for monitoring 14 PFAS in drinking water (including drinking water obtained from groundwater sources) in 2009. This method was expanded in November 2018 (published as Method 537.1) and can now measure 18 different PFAS. The EPA is working to develop additional drinking water analytical methods for other PFAS as well as two different methods for quantifying 24 PFAS in surface water, groundwater, and wastewater matrices (non-drinking water) and solids (e.g., soil and sediment). The EPA anticipates completing these new methods in 2019. These new methods will include multi lab validations to document repeatability and will be added to the EPA’s Hazardous Waste Test Methods SW-846. The EPA has developed and continues to conduct research to develop new analytical methods which can be used to measure a wide variety of PFAS in different media.

2. As recently as five years ago, EPA had to rely upon industry provided records to understand what PFAS chemicals were manufactured or utilized. The Agency’s Significant New Use Rule authority provided by the recent TSCA reauthorization was intended to help the agency better understand what chemicals are being produced or used here in the United States. Can you elaborate on EPA’s use of the “Significant New Use Rule” authority to potentially understand new uses of PFAS chemicals before they are commercialized? Specifically, will the Significant New Use Rule help EPA better understand the implications of PFAS chemicals as a class, or does EPA interpret the authority provided by Congress to be more narrowly tailored to assess the two specific chemicals, PFOA and PFOS?

The EPA has published several SNURs under TSCA to require manufacturers (including importers) and processors of some PFAS chemicals to notify the EPA at least 90 days before starting or resuming new uses of these chemicals. The EPA action prohibits new uses of PFAS chemicals until notice is submitted, EPA reviews, and makes a determination regarding unreasonable risk posed by the new use. The EPA is required to take action, as appropriate, to address any unreasonable risk. The SNURs apply to all PFAS chemicals included in the SNURs, not just PFOA and PFOS.

Relevant to understanding which PFAS chemicals on the TSCA Inventory are active in U.S. commerce, the EPA will soon be publishing an updated version of the TSCA Inventory that will include all substances designated as either active over the past 10 years or inactive per reporting under the TSCA Inventory Notification (Active/Inactive) framework rule.

The Honorable Margaret Wood Hassan

1. How many Americans are known or expected to have been exposed to PFAS in their drinking water? Is this estimate you provide for people on public water supplies or does it include people on private drinking water wells?

The EPA worked with states and public water systems (PWSs) to characterize the occurrence of six PFAS in the nation's drinking water served by public water systems (PWSs) by including six PFAS in the third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) (UCMR does not sample private wells.). From 2013-2015, drinking water samples were collected and analyzed for six PFAS in nearly 5,000 PWSs across the nation, accounting for approximately 80 percent of the U.S. population served by PWSs (approximately 250 million people).

The EPA found 4.0 percent of PWSs (198 out of 4,920 systems) reported results for which one or more of the six PFAS (PFOA, PFOS, perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), (perfluoroheptanoic acid) PFHpA, or perfluorobutane sulfonate (PFBS)) was measured at or above the minimum reporting limit during one or more sampling events at one or more sampling locations. The minimum reporting limit is lower than EPA's lifetime HA. The UCMR data are the best-available data on the frequency and level of occurrence of these PFAS in public water systems nationally, but they do not provide information on the occurrence in private wells.

2. How many Americans have been exposed to levels of PFOA and PFOS that exceed the EPA drinking water guideline?

To provide Americans, including the most sensitive populations, with a margin of protection from a lifetime of exposure to PFOA and PFOS from drinking water, the EPA has established the health advisory levels at 70 parts per trillion. When both PFOA and PFOS are found in drinking water, the combined concentrations of PFOA and PFOS should be compared with the 70 parts per trillion health advisory level. This health advisory level offers a margin of protection for all Americans throughout their life from adverse health effects resulting from exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. The health advisory value is derived based upon peer-reviewed studies of the effects of PFOA and PFOS on laboratory animals (rodents) demonstrating the potential for developmental effects. Under the third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, discussed in the response to the preceding question, the EPA found that 1.3 percent of the participating PWSs (63 out of 4,920 PWSs reporting) had at least one sample that measured PFOA and/or PFOS at concentrations greater than 70 ppt. The EPA believes the UCMR3 data provide the best-available data regarding the frequency and level of contaminant occurrence in public water systems. However, the EPA has not developed estimates of the national population served by public water systems at levels greater than the Health Advisory. The EPA also does not have nationally representative data on PFOA and PFOS levels associated with private wells.

3. When did the EPA begin developing its drinking water guideline for PFOA and PFOS?

The EPA initiated its health assessments for PFOA and PFOS in 2009. Draft Health Effects Support Documents for PFOS and PFOA were released for public comment in February 2014. The final Health Effects Support Documents and Lifetime Health Advisories were published in May 2016. See Health Effects Support Documents and Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/supporting-documents-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>.

4. When were the guidelines publicly available?

The non-regulatory Lifetime Health Advisory levels for the sum of PFOA and PFOS concentrations was released in May 2016.

5. When were the data documenting the presence of PFAS under the Safe Drinking Water Act's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule analyzed? When were they made publicly available?

The UCMR 3 data were collected from 2013-2016 and were analyzed thereafter. The EPA published UCMR 3 data approximately quarterly throughout the monitoring program following review. The data summary was published in January 2017, available at <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-02/documents/ucmr3-data-summary-january-2017.pdf>. The EPA continues to assess the data.

6. How many years have passed since the EPA has known that PFAS – including PFOA and PFOS are present in public drinking water supplies?

The EPA conducted a nationwide survey of drinking water systems under the third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, which began sampling drinking water in 2013.

7. What is the difference between a guideline and a standard?

Standards, such as maximum contaminant levels set under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), are enforceable requirements that drinking water systems must follow. Guidelines, such as the EPA's Health Advisories, are non-enforceable and non-regulatory. They are intended to provide technical information to state agencies and other public health officials on potential health effects, analytical methodologies, and treatment technologies associated with drinking water contamination. The health advisory level for PFOA and PFOS were calculated to offer a margin of protection for fetuses during pregnancy and breastfed infants as well as for all Americans throughout their life.

8. If an EPA standard is developed, are all states required to meet the standard?

Yes, when the EPA establishes a standard under SDWA, states, territories, and tribes are required to meet that standard. In addition, states, territories, and tribes that have been delegated primary enforcement responsibility (primacy) must adopt standards that are no less stringent than the EPA's regulations.

9. If an EPA standard is developed, are DoD facilities required to meet the very same standard(s)? Why or why not?

DoD facilities that are public water systems and are located within the United States (including territories) are required to meet SDWA requirements, including meeting any applicable drinking water standards.

10. The Centers for Disease Control Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry released its Toxicity Profile for PFAS this summer. The ATSDR guidelines for PFOA and PFOS are almost 10 times less than the EPA drinking water guidelines. Why is this?

On June 20, 2018, ATSDR released a draft Toxicological Profile for perfluoroalkyls for public comment. This document includes Minimal Risk Levels (MRLs) for four PFAS – Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), and Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS). ATSDR released the draft Toxicological Profile after working collaboratively with the EPA, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health (including the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences), the National Toxicology Program, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

ATSDR's MRLs and the EPA's Health Advisories (HAs) are two different tools that are used in different situations. Drinking Water HAs provide information on contaminants that can cause human health effects and are known or anticipated to occur in drinking water. They are a concentration in drinking water that is not expected to cause any adverse human health effects over an exposure period (e.g. 1-day, 10-day, lifetime). The EPA's health advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory and provide technical information to states agencies and other public health officials on health effects, analytical methodologies, and treatment technologies associated with drinking water contamination. Drinking water HAs are calculated incorporating toxicity (i.e., reference doses or RfDs) and exposure parameters (i.e., drinking water intake, body weight, and other potential sources of exposure).

ATSDR's MRLs are toxicity values that are intended to be used to help public health professionals determine areas and populations potentially at risk for health effects from exposure to a particular chemical. MRLs do not take into account specific exposures like a drinking water HA. MRLs are intended only to serve as a screening tool to help public health professionals decide where to look more closely; they are not intended to indicate a maximum safe exposure level. Drinking water HAs provide non-enforceable technical guidance to state agencies and other public health officials who have the primary responsibility for overseeing drinking water systems. The health advisory level for PFOA and PFOS offer a margin of protection for fetuses during pregnancy and breastfed infants as well as for all Americans throughout their life.

ATSDR's MRLs for PFOA and PFOS differ by an order of magnitude from the toxicity values that were derived by EPA in development of the drinking water HAs due to differences in the critical study selected (PFOA) and uncertainty factors applied (PFOS). Other health agencies may issue different values based on their own analyses, including more stringent values that may reflect more conservative assumptions. The EPA supports the efforts of other federal partners, including ATSDR, to develop information related to PFAS. The EPA continues to take concrete steps, in cooperation with our federal and state partners, to address PFAS and ensure all Americans have access to clean and safe drinking water. The EPA will continue to carefully review the draft ATSDR Toxicological Profile and will consider any information that may inform our approach to PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS.

11. In your opinion, do the EPA guidelines meaningfully reduce risk to human health?

The EPA's health advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory and provide technical information to states agencies and other public health officials on health effects, analytical methodologies, and treatment technologies associated with drinking water contamination. The EPA's health advisory level for PFOA and PFOS offers a margin of protection for all Americans throughout their life from adverse health effects resulting from exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water.

12. Based on the scientific evidence, do you think that the EPA guidelines set for PFOA and PFOS are health protective? Are they specifically protecting infants who are bottle fed with water from their contaminated home source or those who are breast fed where moms are drinking contaminated water?

Based on the available scientific evidence, the EPA believes the Health Advisory levels for PFOA and PFOS are protective of human health. These levels include margins of safety and consider sensitive individuals, including fetuses during pregnancy and breastfed and bottle-fed infants.

13. Do you think that the EPA drinking water guidelines should be developed for the suite of chemicals measured in the UCMR and not just for PFOA and PFOS?

The EPA will work with our federal, state, tribal, and local partners on response actions and research into the health and environmental impacts of these PFAS substances. The EPA is continuing to work to develop a PFAS Management Plan that will outline the Agency's approach to addressing the PFAS challenge.

14. The last drinking water standard EPA developed was way back in the 1990s and in fact was only a lowering of the arsenic standard. Does EPA have the person power and technical abilities to develop PFAS federal drinking water standards?

The EPA's technical experts are dedicated to assuring that National Primary Drinking Water regulations assure public health protection in accordance with SDWA. The EPA has promulgated a number of drinking water regulations that strengthen public health protection since the 1996 amendments to SDWA. These regulations, including those designed to reduce risks from arsenic, disinfection byproducts, radionuclides, and microbial pathogens that can come from a variety of sources including surface water, ground water and airplane drinking water systems, were developed in consultation with states, the EPA's National Drinking Water Advisory Council, the Science Advisory Board and/or other interested stakeholders.

Additionally, SDWA requires the EPA to regularly assess and evaluate unregulated contaminants. The EPA has published four Contaminant Candidate Lists, promulgated and implemented four Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulations, and made regulatory determinations for 25 contaminants in accordance with SDWA. The EPA must also review each national primary drinking water regulation at least once every six years and revise them, if appropriate. As part of the "Six-Year Review," the EPA evaluates any newly available data, information and technologies to determine if any regulatory revisions are needed. Revisions must maintain or strengthen public health protection. The EPA's third Six-Year Review evaluated thousands of peer reviewed studies and millions of data points from drinking water treatment systems and was published in January 2017. The results of that review identified rules the EPA can evaluate whether to modify to strengthen public health protection in future years. This review ensures that existing rules are offering the maximum public health benefit feasible.

For more information about the timelines under which drinking water regulations were promulgated, please see https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/dw_regulation_timeline.pdf.

15. If so, how long would it take to develop and promulgate a standard?

Under the SDWA-mandated regulatory determination process, the EPA must consider three criteria when making a determination to regulate a contaminant:

- *The contaminant may have an adverse effect on the health of persons*
- *The contaminant is known to occur or there is a high chance that the contaminant will occur in public water systems often enough and at levels of public health concern*
- *In the sole judgment of the Administrator, regulation of the contaminant presents a meaningful opportunity for health risk reductions for persons served by public water systems*

When making a determination, the EPA first publishes a preliminary regulatory determination in the Federal Register (FR) and provides an opportunity for public comment. After review and consideration of public comments, the EPA would publish a final FR notice with the regulatory determination decisions. If the EPA were to make a final determination to regulate a particular contaminant, the Agency would start the rulemaking process to establish the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR). The SDWA requires that the EPA propose a regulation within 24 months of making a determination to regulate a contaminant, and to promulgate a regulation within 18 months of proposal (with an option of extending this time frame by up to 9 months).

The EPA believes the time frame allotted for promulgating drinking water regulations is appropriate because of the steps required under SDWA. As part of this process, the EPA reviews health effects data that the Agency would use to set a maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG). The MCLG is the maximum level of a contaminant in drinking water at which no known or anticipated adverse effect on the health of persons would occur, allowing an adequate margin of safety. MCLGs are non-enforceable public health goals. Once the MCLG is determined, the EPA sets an enforceable standard, which is established as either a maximum contaminant level (MCL) or a “treatment technique.” The MCL is the maximum allowed level of a contaminant in water which is delivered to any user of a public water system.

The EPA must consider feasibility of treatment and monitoring when selecting an enforceable limit. SDWA also requires the EPA to prepare a health risk reduction and cost analysis in support of any NPDWR. The EPA must analyze the quantifiable and non-quantifiable costs and benefits that are likely to occur as the result of compliance with the proposed standard. The EPA must determine if the benefits of the regulation justify or do not justify the costs. Finally, the EPA must consult with experts and stakeholders including the National Drinking Water Advisory Council and the Science Advisory Board. These analyses and consultations can take significant time but assure that state and local resources are focused upon the most important public health priorities.

16. How many people’s health will be harmed in the time it takes to develop a national standard?

Protecting public health is the EPA’s primary mission. The EPA will continue to carry out the requirements of SDWA in order to ensure that citizens across the United States continue to have safe and clean drinking water.

17. When we know that very small amounts of PFAS can negatively affect health, why is EPA treating results below the UCMR minimum reporting levels (MRLs) [20 ppt PFOA; 40 ppt PFOS] as “zero”? Are they zero or are they levels that we need to be concerned about?

The HA for PFOS and PFOA is 70 ppt.

The EPA set the MRLs for UCMR 3 after looking at the performance of multiple laboratories that conducted studies to determine how low they could reliably measure the concentration of contaminants. To establish these levels, the EPA vetted those MRLs through the notice-and-comment UCMR 3 rulemaking. The EPA set the UCMR 3 MRLs such that we would have high confidence that a capable analyst/laboratory could meet those levels and report numeric results. Per the rule, no results below that level were reported.

The EPA is aware that some laboratories are able to reliably measure PFAS in drinking water at lower levels. The EPA advises states or others who may be leading the collection of PFAS data since the UCMR to consider establishing lower MRLs to meet any project-specific data quality objectives, provided the laboratories can demonstrate acceptable performance at the specified concentrations of interest.

18. The PFASs have been in commerce for tens of years. Can the Lautenberg Amendment to the Toxics Substances Control Act be used to require pre-market testing of all of the PFASs? What is preventing this from happening?

The EPA’s new chemicals review program reviews all new PFAS chemicals intended for TSCA uses before they are allowed to commercialize and must make a determination regarding unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment. The EPA reviews new substances to identify whether the range of toxicity, fate, and bioaccumulation issues that have caused past concerns with long-chain PFAS may be present, as well as any concerns that may be raised by new chemistries, in order to make an affirmative safety determination. In addition to being able to require testing under TSCA section 5(e), the EPA will also restrict uses pending development of additional information related to the chemical (e.g. testing), where appropriate. Whether and what type of testing may be necessary depends on a number of factors such as the specific uses of the new chemical, and the similarities or differences of the new chemical relative to other PFAS chemicals. Many of the PFAS on the active TSCA inventory have been through the new chemical review described above, PFAS that were in use prior to the enactment of TSCA were not subject to such a review. Approximately 200 of the PFAS that have been through EPA’s new chemicals program have an associated consent order. Most of those orders contain a requirement for testing if certain conditions are met. Of these, approximately 140 have commenced production.

19. Filtration is the currently feasible technology to remove PFAS from water. The filters that contain the PFAS are then disposed of. Where are they disposed of? Are these toxic? Does this mean that PFAS should be listed as Superfund chemicals and disposed of in hazardous waste facilities?

Currently available methods for removing certain PFAS from drinking water include granular or powdered activated carbon, anion exchange, or high-pressure membrane separation techniques including reverse osmosis or nanofiltration. These methods may generate PFAS-contaminated waste, which should be managed consistent with state, tribal, and local requirements and in a manner that will minimize the potential for environmental releases.

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulates hazardous waste disposal. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, aka Superfund) regulates the cleanup of hazardous substances released to the environment. All chemicals designated as RCRA hazardous waste are CERCLA hazardous substances, though not all chemicals designated as CERCLA hazardous substances are RCRA hazardous waste. The EPA is currently evaluating all statutory mechanisms available to address PFOA and PFOS.

20. PFASs are measured in waste water and in sewage sludge. Does this mean that PFASs are now in our rivers, streams and lakes? Are our fish contaminated? If yes, why is EPA not regulating discharge to waterways?

PFAS are very persistent and mobile in environmental media, including wastewater and sludge. Some evidence shows that certain PFAS have been accumulating in the environment and in wildlife (including fish). The EPA and states regulate discharges of pollutants to Waters of the United States under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System. The EPA and states are evaluating approaches to ensure that PFAS discharges to the environment are minimized.

21. What is EPA's plan to further engage with the community in NH and get direct input from Granite Staters about PFAS contamination in their waters?

The EPA held a community engagement meeting in Exeter, NH in June 2018. The EPA received input from community members at this meeting as well as through a public docket, which closed on September 28, 2018. The EPA is continuing to work to develop a PFAS Management Plan that will outline the Agency's approach to addressing the PFAS challenge. The Agency is working to release the plan as soon as possible.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 21 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Martha Blackburn
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Blackburn:

Thank you for your August 29, 2018, letter expressing concern about a recent action by the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina vacating and nationally enjoining the final rule that added an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule and encouraging the agencies to continue to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and our colleagues in the Department of the Army share your concern about the South Carolina District Court decision and as a result have filed a brief requesting an appeal.

On February 28, 2017, the President signed the "Executive Order on Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the "Waters of the United States Rule." The Executive Order calls on the EPA Administrator and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to review a 2015 definition of waters of the U.S. and "publish for notice and comment a proposed rule rescinding or revising the rule...." The Executive Order also says the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers "shall consider interpreting the term 'navigable waters,' as defined in 33 U.S.C. 1362(7), in a manner consistent with the opinion of Justice Antonin Scalia in *Rapanos v. United States*, 547 U.S. 715 (2006)."

To meet the objectives of the Executive Order in a clear and expeditious manner, the EPA and the Army are pursuing a two-step approach. The first step is an initial rulemaking to repeal the 2015 regulatory definition of "waters of the United States" and recodify the prior definition. The EPA and the Army published the "Step 1" proposal in the *Federal Register* on July 27, 2017. On June 29, 2018, the EPA and the Army issued a supplemental proposal to this action. The EPA and the Army specifically requested comment on the legal basis of the 2015 Rule, which the agencies believe has led to uncertainty and confusion across the country. The supplemental proposal was published in the *Federal Register* on July 12, 2018; the 30-day public comment period ended August 13, 2018.

The second step is a rulemaking to revise the definition of “waters of the United States” consistent with direction in the February 28, 2017 Executive Order. This “Step 2” proposed rule was published on the EPA’s and the Army’s websites on December 11, 2018 and will undergo a public comment period after it has been published in the Federal Register.

Thank you again for your interest in the Clean Water Act definition of “waters of the United States.” If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Denis Borum in the EPA’s Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at borum.denis@epa.gov or (202) 564-4836.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Ross", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 21 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Diane Black
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Black:

Thank you for your August 29, 2018, letter expressing concern about a recent action by the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina vacating and nationally enjoining the final rule that added an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule and encouraging the agencies to continue to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and our colleagues in the Department of the Army share your concern about the South Carolina District Court decision and as a result have filed a brief requesting an appeal.

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Thank you again for your interest in the Clean Water Act definition of “waters of the United States.” If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Denis Borum in the EPA’s Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at borum.denis@epa.gov or (202) 564-4836.

Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 21 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Scott DesJarlais
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman DesJarlais:

Thank you for your August 29, 2018, letter expressing concern about a recent action by the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina vacating and nationally enjoining the final rule that added an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule and encouraging the agencies to continue to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and our colleagues in the Department of the Army share your concern about the South Carolina District Court decision and as a result have filed a brief requesting an appeal.

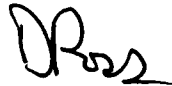
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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 21 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable John J. Duncan, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Duncan:

Thank you for your August 29, 2018, letter expressing concern about a recent action by the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina vacating and nationally enjoining the final rule that added an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule and encouraging the agencies to continue to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and our colleagues in the Department of the Army share your concern about the South Carolina District Court decision and as a result have filed a brief requesting an appeal.

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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 21 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Fleischmann:

Thank you for your August 29, 2018, letter expressing concern about a recent action by the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina vacating and nationally enjoining the final rule that added an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule and encouraging the agencies to continue to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and our colleagues in the Department of the Army share your concern about the South Carolina District Court decision and as a result have filed a brief requesting an appeal.

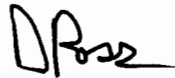
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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 21 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable David Kustoff
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kustoff:

Thank you for your August 29, 2018, letter expressing concern about a recent action by the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina vacating and nationally enjoining the final rule that added an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule and encouraging the agencies to continue to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act.

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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 21 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable David P. Roe
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Roe:

Thank you for your August 29, 2018, letter expressing concern about a recent action by the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina vacating and nationally enjoining the final rule that added an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule and encouraging the agencies to continue to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act.

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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

NOV 11 2018

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

Thank you for your letter of October 2, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding chitosan.

The EPA received the petition from Tidal Vision Products, LLC on October 10, 2018, requesting that chitosan (CAS #9012-76-4) be added to the minimum risk pesticide list in order to minimize regulatory burdens on both the EPA and businesses that produce and use chitosan in the United States. Companies may at any time petition the EPA to add or remove ingredients from the active or inert ingredient lists under the Administrative Procedure Act. The petition starts a rulemaking process that involves several steps, including a public comment period.

The EPA is now reviewing the petition on chitosan and beginning the rulemaking process. We appreciate your support of the petition.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Sven-Erik Kaiser in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at kaiser.sven-erik@epa.gov or at (202) 566-2753.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlotte Bertrand". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charlotte Bertrand
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

NOV 11 2018

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sullivan:

Thank you for your letter of October 2, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding chitosan.

The EPA received the petition from Tidal Vision Products, LLC on October 10, 2018, requesting that chitosan (CAS #9012-76-4) be added to the minimum risk pesticide list in order to minimize regulatory burdens on both the EPA and businesses that produce and use chitosan in the United States. Companies may at any time petition the EPA to add or remove ingredients from the active or inert ingredient lists under the Administrative Procedure Act. The petition starts a rulemaking process that involves several steps, including a public comment period.

The EPA is now reviewing the petition on chitosan and beginning the rulemaking process. We appreciate your support of the petition.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Sven-Erik Kaiser in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at kaiser.sven-erik@epa.gov or at (202) 566-2753.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlotte Bertrand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Charlotte Bertrand
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 21 2018

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Senator Durbin:

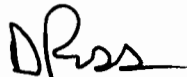
Thank you for your October 16, 2018, letter regarding the Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards (ELGs) for Meat and Poultry Products.

Nutrients remain one of our most challenging water environmental problems, impacting drinking water, recreation, aquatic life, and human health. One of the EPA's water program priorities is to make near-term progress in reducing excess nutrients from reaching our waterways. To that end, we have engaged with water resource managers at the Illinois EPA to explore strategies to address nutrients in Illinois waters. We are also working closely with our federal partners, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to identify opportunities to reduce excess nutrients in our nation's waters and improve water quality. The EPA's Final 2016 Effluent Guidelines Program Plan, published in 2018, stated the Agency's intent to identify industries discharging nutrients and opportunities to reduce those discharges. The EPA also stated we intend to prioritize, for further review or study, those industries that may be candidates for ELG development or revision to control nutrient discharges. As a result, the EPA has been reviewing industries discharging nutrients, based on available monitoring data, including the Meat and Poultry Point Source Category, to determine if some industry classes discharge more nitrogen or phosphorus than others.

Your letter mentioned the JBS-owned pork processing plant in Beardstown, IL. That facility's permit limits for nitrogen loads and concentrations are based on the current Meat and Poultry ELGs and the facility appears to have complied with those limits since at least June 2015 (three months after the March 2015 spill). Illinois EPA administers the NPDES permit program in Illinois and thus has primary responsibility for managing this permit. The permit is currently in an expired and administratively continued status. The EPA's Region 5 Office has been in touch with the state and the state intends to send the facility a copy of the new draft permit for review soon. In crafting the new draft permit, the state will consider available information, including the conditions of the receiving waters and downstream waters, to determine if more stringent effluent limitations should be applied to comply with state water quality standards.

Thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Elizabeth Skane in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at skane.elizabeth@epa.gov or (202) 564-5696.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Ross", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Robert C. Scott
Member, U.S House of Representatives
2600 Washington Avenue
Suite 1010
Newport News, Virginia 23601

Dear Representative Scott:

Thank you for your October 15, 2018 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on behalf of your constituent, Ms. Michelle Bradstock, concerning the development of Chuckatuck Cove in Suffolk, Virginia.

EPA has authorized the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ) to administer the NPDES permit program, referred to as the VPDES program. The VPDES program implements permitting and compliance activities related to discharges of stormwater from construction activities. Operators applying for coverage under the General VPDES Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities (CGP) must obtain approval of an erosion and sediment control and post-construction stormwater management plan, prior to obtaining permit coverage or beginning land disturbing activities.

Virginia's Erosion and Sediment Control Law requires each city and county in Virginia to adopt and administer a Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Program (VESCP). Localities that operate Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems are required to adopt a Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) consistent with the provisions of Virginia's Stormwater Management Act. The local VESCP/VSMP authority is responsible for reviewing and approving erosion and sediment control and post construction stormwater management plans, conducting site inspections and enforcing provision of the VESCP and VSMP.

The city is the responsible VESCP/VSMP authority for the Chuckatuck Cove project. The city determined that this project met the criteria to be grandfathered. Post construction stormwater technical criteria became effective on July 1, 2014. The VSMP regulation allows projects meeting certain criteria to be grandfathered under the previous post-construction stormwater criteria. In this case, the operator of the Chuckatuck Cove project provided evidence of an approved zoning plan, subdivision plat, or site plan that was approved by the locality prior to July 1, 2012. Initial CGP coverage (VAR10L383) for this project was issued by VADEQ on August 10, 2018, to Kirk Old, LLC.



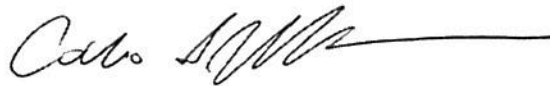
VADEQ has received several complaints regarding the Chuckatuck Cove project and is actively tracking resolution of the complaints, as well as monitoring ongoing site activities. On October 25, 2018, VADEQ conducted a joint site visit with the city to review implementation of the CGP. A VADEQ review of the city's records show that the VSMP is conducting regular inspections. VADEQ has coordinated with the city via a referral letter to have the city provide responses to items that are within their purview.

In response to wetlands concerns raised by the community, VADEQ conducted a second site visit on November 8, 2018 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The Corps confirmed a wetland delineation of the site in 2006 and re-confirmed the delineation in 2011. At the request of VADEQ, the Corps confirmed that site conditions had not changed since the previous delineations. The Corps re-flagged the wetland boundary at the locations of two proposed stormwater outfalls on the site, which will be near wetlands. During this time, there were no observed unauthorized activities or wetland impacts as a result of ongoing construction activity at the site.

Based upon the information made available to this office, EPA is satisfied that VADEQ is attempting to address the issues raised by Ms. Michelle Bradstock. EPA has no plans to initiate a federal investigation into this matter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Mr. Brian Hamilton, EPA's Virginia Liaison, at 215-814-5497.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cosmo Servidio', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Cosmo Servidio
Regional Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 20 2018

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am transmitting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's response to the August 2018 U.S. Government Accountability Office report entitled, *Columbia River Basin: Additional Federal Actions Would Benefit Restoration Efforts* (GAO-18-561). The EPA prepared this response pursuant to 31 United States Code 720.

The EPA generally agrees with the GAO's findings and recommendations. The EPA appreciates the work of the GAO to understand and assess the governance, scope and work efforts of the water quality related restoration efforts in the Columbia River Basin in fiscal years 2010 through 2016.

The GAO report provided a synthesis of a review of restoration efforts in the Columbia River Basin that focused on an examination of 1) efforts to improve water quality in the Basin from FYs 2010-2016; 2) approaches to collaboration that entities have used for selected efforts; 3) sources of funding and federal funding expenditures; and 4) the extent to which EPA and the Office of Management and Budget have implemented Clean Water Act, Section 123.

GAO Recommendation:

The Administrator of the EPA should develop a program management plan that includes a schedule of the actions EPA will take and the resources and funding it needs to establish and implement the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program, including formation of the associated Columbia River Basin Restoration Working Group, and submit this plan to the appropriate congressional authorizing committees as a part of the fiscal year 2020 budget process. (Recommendation 1).

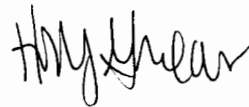
EPA Response:

The EPA is committed to work with state, federal, and tribal governments as well as other partnership and collaboration forums, including the Columbia River Federal Caucus, the Columbia River Federal Executives, and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, to develop a program management plan and schedule of actions as called for in the Columbia River Restoration Act, CWA Section 123. To begin this work, the EPA initiated the dialogue and work efforts with key entities and held a Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Working Group meeting on October 30, 2018, in The Dalles, OR. As described in the Chris Hladick, Region 10 Administrator, July 25, 2018, letter to Alfredo Gomez, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, GAO, the many entities in the Columbia River Basin

governance structure and the complexities of developing a new program limits our ability to designate a specific time frame for the completion of this plan.

The EPA appreciates the opportunity to review and respond to the final GAO report. If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Christina Moody, in the agency's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, by email at moody.christina@epa.gov or by phone at (202) 564-0260.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holly Greaves", written in a cursive style.

Holly W. Greaves
Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 20 2018

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman, Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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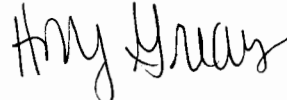
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Sincerely,

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Holly W. Greaves
Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 20 2018

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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The EPA appreciates the opportunity to review and respond to the final GAO report. If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Christina Moody, in the agency's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, by email at moody.christina@epa.gov or by phone at (202) 564-0260.

Sincerely,

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Holly W. Greaves
Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 20 2018

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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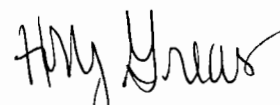
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Director, Natural Resources and Environment, GAO, the many entities in the Columbia River Basin governance structure and the complexities of developing a new program limits our ability to designate a specific time frame for the completion of this plan.

The EPA appreciates the opportunity to review and respond to the final GAO report. If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Christina Moody, in the agency's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, by email at moody.christina@epa.gov or by phone at (202) 564-0260.

Sincerely,

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Holly W. Greaves
Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 20 2018

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

I am transmitting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's response to the August 2018 U.S. Government Accountability Office report entitled, *Columbia River Basin: Additional Federal Actions Would Benefit Restoration Efforts* (GAO-18-561). The EPA prepared this response pursuant to 31 United States Code 720.

The agency reviewed the report and pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 720, enclosed are copies of the EPA responses to the Chairs of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

If you have any further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Christina Moody, in the agency's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, by email at moody.christina@epa.gov or by phone at (202) 564-0260.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holly Greaves", is positioned above the printed name.

Holly W. Greaves
Chief Financial Officer

Enclosures



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 20 2018

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Eugene Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
Government Accountability Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

I am transmitting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's response to the August 2018 U.S. Government Accountability Office report entitled, *Columbia River Basin: Additional Federal Actions Would Benefit Restoration Efforts* (GAO-18-561). The EPA prepared this response pursuant to 31 United States Code 720.

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If you have any further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Christina Moody, in the agency's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, by email at moody.christina@epa.gov or by phone at (202) 564-0260.

Sincerely,

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Holly W. Greaves
Chief Financial Officer

Enclosures



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Martha Blackburn
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Blackburn:

Thank you for your August 29, 2018, letter expressing concern about a recent action by the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina vacating and nationally enjoining the final rule that added an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule and encouraging the agencies to continue to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and our colleagues in the Department of the Army share your concern about the South Carolina District Court decision and as a result have filed a brief requesting an appeal.

On February 28, 2017, the President signed the "Executive Order on Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the 'Waters of the United States Rule.'" The Executive Order calls on the EPA Administrator and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to review a 2015 definition of waters of the U.S. and "publish for notice and comment a proposed rule rescinding or revising the rule...." The Executive Order also says the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers "shall consider interpreting the term 'navigable waters,' as defined in 33 U.S.C. 1362(7), in a manner consistent with the opinion of Justice Antonin Scalia in *Rapanos v. United States*, 547 U.S. 715 (2006)."

To meet the objectives of the Executive Order in a clear and expeditious manner, the EPA and the Army are pursuing a two-step approach. The first step is an initial rulemaking to repeal the 2015 regulatory definition of "waters of the United States" and recodify the prior definition. The EPA and the Army published the "Step 1" proposal in the *Federal Register* on July 27, 2017. On June 29, 2018, the EPA and the Army issued a supplemental proposal to this action. The EPA and the Army specifically requested comment on the legal basis of the 2015 Rule, which the agencies believe has led to uncertainty and confusion across the country. The supplemental proposal was published in the *Federal Register* on July 12, 2018; the 30-day public comment period ended August 13, 2018.

The second step is a rulemaking to revise the definition of “waters of the United States” consistent with direction in the February 28, 2017 Executive Order. This “Step 2” proposed rule was published on the EPA’s and the Army’s websites on December 11, 2018 and will undergo a public comment period after it has been published in the Federal Register.

Thank you again for your interest in the Clean Water Act definition of “waters of the United States.” If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Denis Borum in the EPA’s Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at borum.denis@epa.gov or (202) 564-4836.

Sincerely,



David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Diane Black
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Black:

Thank you for your August 29, 2018, letter expressing concern about a recent action by the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina vacating and nationally enjoining the final rule that added an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule and encouraging the agencies to continue to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and our colleagues in the Department of the Army share your concern about the South Carolina District Court decision and as a result have filed a brief requesting an appeal.

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Sincerely,



David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Scott DesJarlais
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman DesJarlais:

Thank you for your August 29, 2018, letter expressing concern about a recent action by the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina vacating and nationally enjoining the final rule that added an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule and encouraging the agencies to continue to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act.

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Sincerely,



David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable John J. Duncan, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Duncan:

Thank you for your August 29, 2018, letter expressing concern about a recent action by the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina vacating and nationally enjoining the final rule that added an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule and encouraging the agencies to continue to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act.

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Thank you again for your interest in the Clean Water Act definition of "waters of the United States." If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Denis Borum in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at borum.denis@epa.gov or (202) 564-4836.

Sincerely,



David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Fleischmann:

Thank you for your August 29, 2018, letter expressing concern about a recent action by the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina vacating and nationally enjoining the final rule that added an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule and encouraging the agencies to continue to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act.

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Sincerely,



David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable David Kustoff
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kustoff:

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable David P. Roe
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Roe:

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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Martha Blackburn
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20516

Dear Congresswoman Blackburn:

Thank you for your August 29, 2018, letter expressing concern about a recent action by the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina vacating and nationally enjoining the final rule that added an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule and encouraging the agencies to continue to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act.

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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Diane Black
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20516

Dear Congresswoman Black:

Thank you for your August 29, 2018, letter expressing concern about a recent action by the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina vacating and nationally enjoining the final rule that added an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule and encouraging the agencies to continue to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act.

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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Scott DesJarlais
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20516

Dear Congressman DesJarlais:

Thank you for your August 29, 2018, letter expressing concern about a recent action by the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina vacating and nationally enjoining the final rule that added an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule and encouraging the agencies to continue to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable John J. Duncan, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20516

Dear Congressman Duncan:

Thank you for your August 29, 2018, letter expressing concern about a recent action by the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina vacating and nationally enjoining the final rule that added an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule and encouraging the agencies to continue to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20516

Dear Congressman Fleischmann:

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable David Kustoff
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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable David P. Roe
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20516

Dear Congressman Roe:

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Sincerely,



David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

On June 20, 2018, the HHS Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) released a draft toxicological profile of four PFAS chemicals for public comment. ATSDR released the draft toxicological profile after coordinating with the EPA, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Department of Defense. The draft ATSDR toxicological profile was open for public comment until August 20 at: <http://www.regulations.gov/Document?D=ATSDR-2015-0004-0008>.

The EPA held a National Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. in May 2018 and visited several states across the nation to hear directly from communities about PFAS issues in their areas. From these engagements, the EPA heard clearly the public's desire for immediate action to address potential health and economic impacts on communities.

Using information from the National Leadership Summit, community engagements, and public comments submitted to the EPA, the Agency is continuing to develop a PFAS Management Plan. This Management Plan will provide the EPA's approach to identifying and understanding PFAS, the Agency's actions to address PFAS, and effective strategies for communicating with the public on PFAS. The EPA is working to release the plan as soon as possible.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 566-0780 or klasen.matthew@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Ross", is placed below the word "Sincerely,".

David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 566-0780 or klasen.matthew@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Portman:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Moore Capito:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Van Hollen:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Michael F. Bennet
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Joe Manchin, III
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Senator Menendez:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for your October 16, 2018, letter regarding the Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards (ELGs) for Meat and Poultry Products.

Nutrients remain one of our most challenging water environmental problems, impacting drinking water, recreation, aquatic life, and human health. One of the EPA's water program priorities is to make near-term progress in reducing excess nutrients from reaching our waterways. To that end, we have engaged with water resource managers at the Illinois EPA to explore strategies to address nutrients in Illinois waters. We are also working closely with our federal partners, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to identify opportunities to reduce excess nutrients in our nation's waters and improve water quality. The EPA's Final 2016 Effluent Guidelines Program Plan, published in 2018, stated the Agency's intent to identify industries discharging nutrients and opportunities to reduce those discharges. The EPA also stated we intend to prioritize, for further review or study, those industries that may be candidates for ELG development or revision to control nutrient discharges. As a result, the EPA has been reviewing industries discharging nutrients, based on available monitoring data, including the Meat and Poultry Point Source Category, to determine if some industry classes discharge more nitrogen or phosphorus than others.

Your letter mentioned the JBS-owned pork processing plant in Beardstown, IL. That facility's permit limits for nitrogen loads and concentrations are based on the current Meat and Poultry ELGs and the facility appears to have complied with those limits since at least June 2015 (three months after the March 2015 spill). Illinois EPA administers the NPDES permit program in Illinois and thus has primary responsibility for managing this permit. The permit is currently in an expired and administratively continued status. The EPA's Region 5 Office has been in touch with the state and the state intends to send the facility a copy of the new draft permit for review soon. In crafting the new draft permit, the state will consider available information, including the conditions of the receiving waters and downstream waters, to determine if more stringent effluent limitations should be applied to comply with state water quality standards.

Thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Elizabeth Skane in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at skane.elizabeth@epa.gov or (202) 564-5696.

Sincerely,



David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

The Honorable Tom McClintock
U.S. House of Representatives
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0504

DEC 19 2018


Dear Congressman McClintock:

Thank you for your letter of September 10, 2018, to Acting Administrator Wheeler regarding the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) for the San Francisco Bay-Delta. I appreciate your interest in this matter, and I am also very interested in the potential impacts of these amendments to your constituents.

The EPA currently has no action before us. On October 31, 2018, the Acting Administrator sent a letter to the State Water Board encouraging the State to continue pursuing voluntary stakeholder agreements and to consider comments submitted by the Department of Interior. As you may know, the State Water Board voted on December 12, 2018 to approve the WQCP amendments developed by the Board's staff. If the State further engages the EPA, the EPA will consider all appropriate responses.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact our Regional Congressional Liaison Brent Maier at maier.brent@epa.gov or at (415) 947-4256 or Denis Borum in the EPA Headquarter's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at borum.denis@epa.gov or at (202) 564-4836.

Sincerely,


for Michael Stoker
Regional Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

The Honorable Jeff Denham
U.S. House of Representatives
1730 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0510

DEC 19 2018


Dear Congressman Denham:

Thank you for your letter of September 10, 2018, to Acting Administrator Wheeler regarding the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) for the San Francisco Bay-Delta. I appreciate your interest in this matter, and I am also very interested in the potential impacts of these amendments to your constituents.

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for 
Michael Stoker
Regional Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

DEC 19 2018

The Honorable Jim Costa
U.S. House of Representatives
2081 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3216


Dear Congressman Costa:

Thank you for your letter of September 10, 2018, to Acting Administrator Wheeler regarding the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) for the San Francisco Bay-Delta. I appreciate your interest in this matter, and I am also very interested in the potential impacts of these amendments to your constituents.

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Sincerely,


for Michael Stoker
Regional Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

The Honorable John J. Faso
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Congressman Faso:

Thank you for your May 22, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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The EPA held a National Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. in May 2018 and visited several states across the nation to hear directly from communities about PFAS issues in their areas. From these engagements, the EPA heard clearly the public's desire for immediate action to address potential health and economic impacts on communities.

Using information from the National Leadership Summit, community engagements, and public comments submitted to the EPA, the Agency is continuing to develop a PFAS Management Plan. This Management Plan will provide the EPA's approach to identifying and understanding PFAS, the Agency's actions to address PFAS, and effective strategies for communicating with the public on PFAS. The EPA is working to release the plan as soon as possible.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 566-0780 or klasen.matthew@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Ross", is placed above the typed name of David P. Ross.

David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 07 2018

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Kenneth Calvert
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Calvert and Murkowski and Ranking Members McCollum and Udall:

Enclosed is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's report to Congress on the funds that were provided for Administrator Priorities during FY 2016 and FY 2017 as directed in House Report 115-238.

The enclosed report provides a description of each activity funded and the amounts provided to each program area, and lists the relevant program projects.

If you have further questions about Administrator Priorities during FY 2016 and FY 2017, please contact Ed Walsh at (202) 564-4594.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Holly Greaves", is positioned above the printed name.

Holly W. Greaves
Chief Financial Officer

Enclosure

Status of Funding for Administrator Priorities, FY 2016 and FY 2017

As stated in the report language of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2018, "Administrator Priorities - EPA is directed to submit a report within 90 days of enactment of this Act that identifies how any fiscal year 2016 and 2017 funding was used by account, program area and program project. Each activity funded should include a justification for the effort and any anticipated results."

Below is a detailed table that breaks down how the FY 2016 and FY 2017 Administrator priorities funding has been used as of June 1, 2018. In sum, the EPA has obligated \$2,500,000.00 of FY 2016 and \$1,268,000.00 of FY 2017 funds for Administrator priorities. For each funding item, we have identified the dollar amount, the name of the program area, the name of the program project, and a short description of how the funds were utilized.

FY 2016	
Environmental Programs and Management	
\$88,000	The funds were provided to OARM for the National Executive Leadership Development Conference (NELDC), which was completed in FY 2016. <i>Operations and Administration: Human Resources Management</i>
\$10,000	These resources funded critical facility operations and maintenance contracts at EPA owned facilities in RTP, North Carolina. <i>Operations and Administration: Facilities Infrastructure and Operations</i>
\$75,000	The funding supported the agency's efforts to improve access to the EPA's data and information resources and ensure Section 508 compliance. <i>Data Management and Security: IT and Data Management</i>
\$213,000	Resources supported the agency's enforcement activities which, were essential to deter violations and promote compliance with federal environmental statutes and regulations. <i>Enforcement: Civil Enforcement</i> <i>Enforcement: Criminal Enforcement</i> <i>Enforcement: NEPA Implementation</i>
\$177,000	Funds supported criteria pollutant and air toxics regulatory and implementation activities required by the Clean Air Act. <i>Clean Air: Atmospheric Protection Program</i> <i>Clean Air: Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs</i> <i>Clean Air: Federal Stationary Source Regulations</i> <i>Clean Air: Federal Support for Air Quality Management</i>
\$127,000	The funds received for grants management were used to transition from the Lotus Notes-based IGMS to the Next Generation Grants System (NGGS). <i>Operations and Administration: Financial Assistance Grants and IAG Management</i>
\$300,000	Funds were provided to support the Chemical Facility Safety Program/Risk Management (RMP) and the inspection of high-risk RMP chemical facilities. <i>Information Exchange: State and Local Prevention and Preparedness</i>

\$25,000	Funds supported the Arctic Water & Sewer Challenge Conference held in September 2016. <i>Water/Human Health Protection: Drinking Water Programs</i>
\$944,439	The Water Finance Center used funding to provide technical assistance through the "WaterCARE initiative." WaterCARE helps small to mid-size communities enhance their financial capabilities during the predevelopment planning stages of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure investments. <i>Water/Human Health Protection: Drinking Water Programs</i> <i>Water Quality Protection: Surface Water Protection</i>
\$300,000	Funds were used in the Animas River watershed area to build awareness and understanding for residents, recreationalists, and visitors of water quality conditions. <i>Water Quality Protection: Surface Water Protection</i>
\$115,561	Funds supported a Joint State-Federal Strategy to accelerate Nutrient Load Reductions in Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Watershed alongside the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Under-Secretary and the Governor of Pennsylvania. <i>Water Quality Protection: Surface Water Protection</i> <i>Geographic Programs: Chesapeake Bay</i>

FY 2016	
Science and Technology	
\$50,000	Resources supported the agency's enforcement activities, which were essential to deter violations and promote compliance with federal environmental statutes and regulations. <i>Enforcement: Forensics Support</i>
\$57,000	This funding was used to for engineering and scientific data utilization in support of the drinking water program. <i>Water/Human Health Protection: Drinking Water Programs</i>
\$18,000	Funding was used to purchase Portable Emissions Measurement System (PEMS) units. The PEMS units provided the ability to test vehicle emission systems under real world driving conditions instead of through the use of stationary dynamometers in the laboratory. <i>Clean Air: Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification</i>

FY 2017	
Environmental Programs and Management	
\$217,000	The funds were used to conduct an analysis to support the Presidential Executive Order on a Comprehensive Plan to Reorganize the Executive Branch. <i>Legal / Science / Regulatory and Economic Review: Integrated Environmental Strategies</i>

\$36,000	<p>Funds were used to upgrade the audio in the conference room number 3530 in WJC North building at headquarters. The project is complete with improved audio for conference calls.</p> <p><i>Legal / Science / Regulatory and Economic Review: Integrated Environmental Strategies</i></p>
\$20,000	<p>The funds were used to repair and paint damaged walls in common spaces. The repairs were necessary to meet GSA standards. This work has been completed.</p> <p><i>Information Exchange and Outreach: Executive Management Operations</i></p>
\$200,000	<p>The funds provided to OW supported contractor efforts to organize and manage public comments associated with Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rulemaking efforts.</p> <p><i>Water Quality Protection: Surface Water Protection</i></p>
\$695,000	<p>The funds supported implementation and training related to Enterprise Lean Management System (ELMS). ELMS is being implemented in every office across the agency in order to improve processes and accountability.</p> <p><i>Brownfields: Brownfields</i> <i>Clean Air: Federal Stationary Source Regulations</i> <i>Indoor Air and Radiation: Reduce Risks from Indoor Air</i> <i>Pesticides: Protect Human Health from Pest. Risk</i> <i>Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA): Corrective Action</i> <i>RCRA: Waste Management</i> <i>Toxics Risk Review and Prevention / Toxic Substances: Chemical Risk Review and Reduction</i> <i>Underground Storage Tanks: LUST / UST</i> <i>Water Ecosystems: Wetlands</i> <i>Water Human Health Protection: Drinking Water Programs</i> <i>Pesticides: Protect Environment from Pesticide Risk</i> <i>Clean Air: Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs</i> <i>Clean Air: Federal Support for Air Quality Management</i> <i>Information Exchange and Outreach: Children and Other Sensitive Populations: Agency Coordination</i> <i>Legal / Science / Regulatory and Economic Review: Science Advisory Board</i> <i>International Programs: International Sources of Pollution</i></p>

FY 2017	
Science and Technology	
\$100,000	<p>The funds supported implementation and training related to Enterprise Lean Management System (ELMS). ELMS is being implemented in every office across the agency in order to improve processes and accountability.</p> <p><i>Research: Chemical Safety and Sustainability</i> <i>Research: Air and Energy</i></p>



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Daniel T. Kildee
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kildee:

Thank you for your October 1, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommending the EPA visit Oscoda, Michigan, during the EPA's engagement with communities impacted by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

The EPA coordinated closely with the states and local communities to plan and select a series of PFAS visits this year. Since the National Leadership Summit in May 2018, the EPA has worked to balance the Agency's desire to hear from as many communities as possible with the need to move thoughtfully but expeditiously to develop a national PFAS Management Plan.

As you know, representatives from the EPA visited locations across Michigan over the past few months including Mount Pleasant, Pinckney, Ann Arbor, and Parchment. The EPA also conducted a public roundtable meeting in Kalamazoo on October 5. During that meeting, the EPA appreciated hearing the perspectives of Oscoda Township and other Michigan stakeholders. While the EPA was unable to accommodate a visit to Oscoda, I want to be clear, EPA officials will continue to be in the field working with the state of Michigan to assist communities.

The EPA appreciates your interest and understands the importance of this issue to the people of Michigan. Using information from the National Leadership Summit, community engagements, and public comments submitted to the EPA, the Agency is continuing to develop a PFAS Management Plan. This Management Plan will provide the EPA's approach to identifying and understanding PFAS, the Agency's actions to address PFAS, and effective strategies for communicating with the public on PFAS. The EPA is working to release the plan as soon as possible.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

On August 2, 2018, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks.” In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

As EPA and NHTSA work towards developing a final rule, we will remain engaged with stakeholders, including auto manufacturers, parts suppliers, states, and environmental and other non-governmental groups. We held three public hearings on the proposed rule, where we heard input from members of the public and many groups interested in this rule. Over the course of the three hearings, held in Fresno, California, Dearborn, Michigan, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, we heard testimony from over 300 citizens and groups. The comment period for the proposed rule closed on October 26 resulting in over 450,000 written comments. We are reviewing all comments and information submitted to the agencies. We appreciate your input on this important policy matter, and have added your letter to the docket for the rulemaking, where it will be part of the public record.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or 202-564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Harris:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

On August 2, 2018, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks.” In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

As EPA and NHTSA work towards developing a final rule, we will remain engaged with stakeholders, including auto manufacturers, parts suppliers, states, and environmental and other non-governmental groups. We held three public hearings on the proposed rule, where we heard input from members of the public and many groups interested in this rule. Over the course of the three hearings, held in Fresno, California, Dearborn, Michigan, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, we heard testimony from over 300 citizens and groups. The comment period for the proposed rule closed on October 26 resulting in over 450,000 written comments. We are reviewing all comments and information submitted to the agencies. We appreciate your input on this important policy matter, and have added your letter to the docket for the rulemaking, where it will be part of the public record.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or 202-564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

On August 2, 2018, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks.” In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or 202-564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Tom Carper
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Carper:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

On August 2, 2018, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks.” In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

As EPA and NHTSA work towards developing a final rule, we will remain engaged with stakeholders, including auto manufacturers, parts suppliers, states, and environmental and other non-governmental groups. We held three public hearings on the proposed rule, where we heard input from members of the public and many groups interested in this rule. Over the course of the three hearings, held in Fresno, California, Dearborn, Michigan, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, we heard testimony from over 300 citizens and groups. The comment period for the proposed rule closed on October 26 resulting in over 450,000 written comments. We are reviewing all comments and information submitted to the agencies. We appreciate your input on this important policy matter, and have added your letter to the docket for the rulemaking, where it will be part of the public record.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or 202-564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

On August 2, 2018, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks.” In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

As EPA and NHTSA work towards developing a final rule, we will remain engaged with stakeholders, including auto manufacturers, parts suppliers, states, and environmental and other non-governmental groups. We held three public hearings on the proposed rule, where we heard input from members of the public and many groups interested in this rule. Over the course of the three hearings, held in Fresno, California, Dearborn, Michigan, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, we heard testimony from over 300 citizens and groups. The comment period for the proposed rule closed on October 26 resulting in over 450,000 written comments. We are reviewing all comments and information submitted to the agencies. We appreciate your input on this important policy matter, and have added your letter to the docket for the rulemaking, where it will be part of the public record.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or 202-564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Van Hollen:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

On August 2, 2018, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks.” In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or 202-564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

On August 2, 2018, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks.” In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

On August 2, 2018, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks.” In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

As EPA and NHTSA work towards developing a final rule, we will remain engaged with stakeholders, including auto manufacturers, parts suppliers, states, and environmental and other non-governmental groups. We held three public hearings on the proposed rule, where we heard input from members of the public and many groups interested in this rule. Over the course of the three hearings, held in Fresno, California, Dearborn, Michigan, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, we heard testimony from over 300 citizens and groups. The comment period for the proposed rule closed on October 26 resulting in over 450,000 written comments. We are reviewing all comments and information submitted to the agencies. We appreciate your input on this important policy matter, and have added your letter to the docket for the rulemaking, where it will be part of the public record.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or 202-564-1142.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W L Wehrum", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Michael F. Bennet
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

On August 2, 2018, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks.” In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

On August 2, 2018, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks.” In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murphy:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hassan:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Christopher A. Coons
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coons:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Joe Manchin III
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

Thank you for your September 28, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), providing comments on the EPA's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The EPA recognizes the PFAS challenges states, tribes, and communities are facing and is committed to working side-by-side with our federal, state, local, and tribal partners to address these concerns.

The EPA appreciates your continued interest in PFAS issues and understands the importance of these concerns to West Virginians. Thank you for the comments you provided to inform the EPA's development of a PFAS Management Plan. Your letter is included in the official docket, available in Docket ID EPA-OW-2018-0270 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. The EPA appreciates your input and will consider your recommendations.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Ross", is positioned above the printed name of the Assistant Administrator.

David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Mike Quigley
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Quigley:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

The EPA agrees with GAO's findings and recommendations in its final report. The EPA has begun implementing GAO's recommendation that the Agency and the U.S. Department of Education collaborate in support of state and school district efforts on lead in drinking water. As GAO noted, federal law does not require testing of drinking water in schools and child care facilities, except for those that have and/or operate their own public water system and are therefore subject to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The EPA encourages and provides guidance for schools and child care facilities to help reduce their lead levels and prioritize remediation efforts based on lead sample results. States and local jurisdictions may establish their own programs for testing drinking water lead levels in schools and child care facilities.

The EPA and the Department of Education are working together to support successful implementation of the Lead Testing in School and Child Care grant program, authorized in Section 2107 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (Public Law No. 114-322). This grant program received \$20 million in appropriations in fiscal year 2018. The EPA launched this grant program in September 2018 by sending a letter to each state's Governor. The EPA and the Department of Education have also begun collaborating on initiatives to provide training and to help implement tools and resources that support healthy drinking water for students.

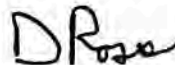
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The EPA's Office of Water and Office of Children's Health Protection continue to collaborate to support school and child care lead in drinking water prevention initiatives, including the Agency's 3Ts guidance. The EPA is working with the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other stakeholders to ensure that school districts and child care programs are aware of these resources.

In March 2018, consistent with Executive Order 13132 on Federalism, the EPA conducted consultations with state and local government officials on potential revisions to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation: Lead and Copper, including possible requirements for community water systems to perform testing at schools and child care facilities that they serve. For more information see: <https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/lcr-federalism-consultation>.

Again, thank you for your letter and commitment to ensuring that states and localities have the funding and resources necessary to conduct testing and remediate lead in their schools. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman DeLauro:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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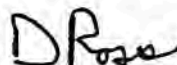
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Again, thank you for your letter and commitment to ensuring that states and localities have the funding and resources necessary to conduct testing and remediate lead in their schools. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Paul D. Tonko
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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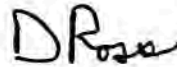
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Again, thank you for your letter and commitment to ensuring that states and localities have the funding and resources necessary to conduct testing and remediate lead in their schools. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Holmes Norton:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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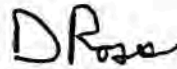
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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Salud Carbajal
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carbajal:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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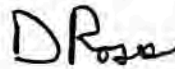
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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Debbie Schultz
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schultz:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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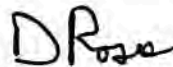
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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Nanette Barragan
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Barragan:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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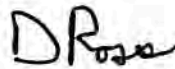
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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Andre Carson
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carson:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Gwen Moore
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Moore:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

The EPA agrees with GAO's findings and recommendations in its final report. The EPA has begun implementing GAO's recommendation that the Agency and the U.S. Department of Education collaborate in support of state and school district efforts on lead in drinking water. As GAO noted, federal law does not require testing of drinking water in schools and child care facilities, except for those that have and/or operate their own public water system and are therefore subject to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The EPA encourages and provides guidance for schools and child care facilities to help reduce their lead levels and prioritize remediation efforts based on lead sample results. States and local jurisdictions may establish their own programs for testing drinking water lead levels in schools and child care facilities.

The EPA and the Department of Education are working together to support successful implementation of the Lead Testing in School and Child Care grant program, authorized in Section 2107 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (Public Law No. 114-322). This grant program received \$20 million in appropriations in fiscal year 2018. The EPA launched this grant program in September 2018 by sending a letter to each state's Governor. The EPA and the Department of Education have also begun collaborating on initiatives to provide training and to help implement tools and resources that support healthy drinking water for students.

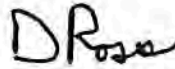
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The EPA's Office of Water and Office of Children's Health Protection continue to collaborate to support school and child care lead in drinking water prevention initiatives, including the Agency's 3Ts guidance. The EPA is working with the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other stakeholders to ensure that school districts and child care programs are aware of these resources.

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Again, thank you for your letter and commitment to ensuring that states and localities have the funding and resources necessary to conduct testing and remediate lead in their schools. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Meeks:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

The EPA agrees with GAO's findings and recommendations in its final report. The EPA has begun implementing GAO's recommendation that the Agency and the U.S. Department of Education collaborate in support of state and school district efforts on lead in drinking water. As GAO noted, federal law does not require testing of drinking water in schools and child care facilities, except for those that have and/or operate their own public water system and are therefore subject to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The EPA encourages and provides guidance for schools and child care facilities to help reduce their lead levels and prioritize remediation efforts based on lead sample results. States and local jurisdictions may establish their own programs for testing drinking water lead levels in schools and child care facilities.

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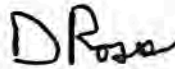
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Again, thank you for your letter and commitment to ensuring that states and localities have the funding and resources necessary to conduct testing and remediate lead in their schools. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hastings:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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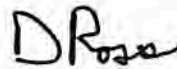
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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Michael E. Capuano
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Capuano:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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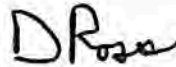
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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Val Demings
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Demings:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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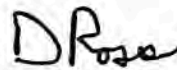
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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rush:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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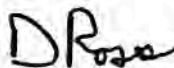
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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Jose Serrano
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Serrano:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Seth Moulton
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Moulton:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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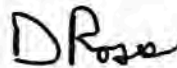
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Again, thank you for your letter and commitment to ensuring that states and localities have the funding and resources necessary to conduct testing and remediate lead in their schools. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bonamici:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

The EPA agrees with GAO's findings and recommendations in its final report. The EPA has begun implementing GAO's recommendation that the Agency and the U.S. Department of Education collaborate in support of state and school district efforts on lead in drinking water. As GAO noted, federal law does not require testing of drinking water in schools and child care facilities, except for those that have and/or operate their own public water system and are therefore subject to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The EPA encourages and provides guidance for schools and child care facilities to help reduce their lead levels and prioritize remediation efforts based on lead sample results. States and local jurisdictions may establish their own programs for testing drinking water lead levels in schools and child care facilities.

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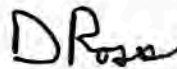
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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Watson Coleman:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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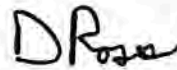
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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Timothy J. Ryan
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ryan:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Brendan Boyle
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Boyle:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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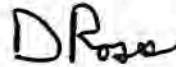
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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Daniel Kildee
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kildee:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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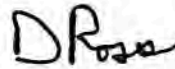
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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Dwight Evans
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Evans:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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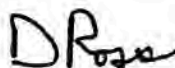
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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Velazquez:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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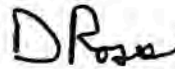
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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Dingell:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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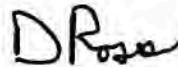
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Again, thank you for your letter and commitment to ensuring that states and localities have the funding and resources necessary to conduct testing and remediate lead in their schools. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Al Green
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Green:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

The EPA agrees with GAO's findings and recommendations in its final report. The EPA has begun implementing GAO's recommendation that the Agency and the U.S. Department of Education collaborate in support of state and school district efforts on lead in drinking water. As GAO noted, federal law does not require testing of drinking water in schools and child care facilities, except for those that have and/or operate their own public water system and are therefore subject to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The EPA encourages and provides guidance for schools and child care facilities to help reduce their lead levels and prioritize remediation efforts based on lead sample results. States and local jurisdictions may establish their own programs for testing drinking water lead levels in schools and child care facilities.

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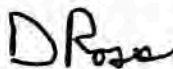
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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gabbard:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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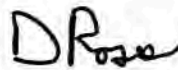
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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Blumenauer:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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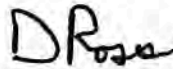
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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Brenda Lawrence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lawrence:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable John Lewis
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lewis:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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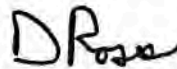
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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Krishnamoorthi:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Raskin:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

The EPA agrees with GAO's findings and recommendations in its final report. The EPA has begun implementing GAO's recommendation that the Agency and the U.S. Department of Education collaborate in support of state and school district efforts on lead in drinking water. As GAO noted, federal law does not require testing of drinking water in schools and child care facilities, except for those that have and/or operate their own public water system and are therefore subject to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The EPA encourages and provides guidance for schools and child care facilities to help reduce their lead levels and prioritize remediation efforts based on lead sample results. States and local jurisdictions may establish their own programs for testing drinking water lead levels in schools and child care facilities.

The EPA and the Department of Education are working together to support successful implementation of the Lead Testing in School and Child Care grant program, authorized in Section 2107 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (Public Law No. 114-322). This grant program received \$20 million in appropriations in fiscal year 2018. The EPA launched this grant program in September 2018 by sending a letter to each state's Governor. The EPA and the Department of Education have also begun collaborating on initiatives to provide training and to help implement tools and resources that support healthy drinking water for students.

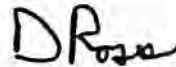
The EPA recently released a revised *3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities* guidance to update information on sampling protocols and best practices for schools, including removing old water fountains or installing filtration devices. The 3Ts stand for: Training, Testing, and Taking Action. The revised version is available in an interactive web format and includes modules, customizable templates, and tools that can help schools when implementing their lead testing programs. Together, the EPA's new lead testing grant program and the 3Ts guidance provide states, schools, and child care facilities with important tools to help protect children from lead in drinking water.

The EPA's Office of Water and Office of Children's Health Protection continue to collaborate to support school and child care lead in drinking water prevention initiatives, including the Agency's 3Ts guidance. The EPA is working with the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other stakeholders to ensure that school districts and child care programs are aware of these resources.

In March 2018, consistent with Executive Order 13132 on Federalism, the EPA conducted consultations with state and local government officials on potential revisions to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation: Lead and Copper, including possible requirements for community water systems to perform testing at schools and child care facilities that they serve. For more information see: <https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/lcr-federalism-consultation>.

Again, thank you for your letter and commitment to ensuring that states and localities have the funding and resources necessary to conduct testing and remediate lead in their schools. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Ross".

David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 18, 2018

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 31, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and me, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule, the SAFE Vehicles rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program.

We will remain engaged with stakeholders, including auto manufacturers, parts suppliers, states, environmental, and other non-governmental groups as we work toward developing a final rule with NHTSA. We held three separate public hearings on the proposed rule in the following locations: Fresno, California; Dearborn, Michigan; and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where we heard testimony from more than 300 citizens and groups interested in this rule. The comment period for the proposed rule closed on October 26, and we will review all comments and information submitted to the agencies.

We appreciate your input and support on this important policy matter and have added your letter to the docket for the rulemaking, where it will be part of the public record.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact me or your staff may contact Troy Lyons, Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at lyons.troy@epa.gov or at 202-564-5200.

Sincerely,

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Andrew R. Wheeler
Acting Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 18, 2018

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Jeff Colyer
Governor of Kansas
300 SW 10th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Governor Colyer:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 31, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and me, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule, the SAFE Vehicles rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program.

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Andrew R. Wheeler
Acting Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 18, 2018

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Matthew G. Bevin
Governor of Kentucky
700 Capitol Avenue, Room 100
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Governor Bevin:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 31, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and me, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule, the SAFE Vehicles rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks.” In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program.

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Andrew R. Wheeler
Acting Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 18, 2018

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Paul R. LePage
Governor of Maine
1 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Governor LePage:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 31, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and me, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule, the SAFE Vehicles rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program.

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Andrew R. Wheeler
Acting Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 18, 2018

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Phil Bryant
Governor of Mississippi
111 East Capitol Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Governor Bryant:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 31, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and me, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule, the SAFE Vehicles rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program.

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Sincerely,

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Andrew R. Wheeler
Acting Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 18, 2018

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Pete Ricketts
Governor of Nebraska
P.O. Box 94922
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Dear Governor Ricketts:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 31, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and me, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule, the SAFE Vehicles rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program.

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Andrew R. Wheeler
Acting Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 18, 2018

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Governor of North Dakota
600 East Boulevard
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505

Dear Governor Burgum:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 31, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and me, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule, the SAFE Vehicles rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks.” In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program.

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Sincerely,

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Andrew R. Wheeler
Acting Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 18, 2018

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Mary Fallin
Governor of Oklahoma
2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Governor Fallin:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 31, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and me, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule, the SAFE Vehicles rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program.

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Andrew R. Wheeler
Acting Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Joe Manchin III
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

Thank you for your September 28, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), providing comments on the EPA's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The EPA recognizes the PFAS challenges states, tribes, and communities are facing and is committed to working side-by-side with our federal, state, local, and tribal partners to address these concerns.

The EPA appreciates your continued interest in PFAS issues and understands the importance of these concerns to West Virginians. Thank you for the comments you provided to inform the EPA's development of a PFAS Management Plan. Your letter is included in the official docket, available in Docket ID EPA-OW-2018-0270 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. The EPA appreciates your input and will consider your recommendations.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. Ross", is positioned above the printed name.

David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

The Honorable John J. Faso
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Congressman Faso:

Thank you for your May 22, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

On June 20, 2018, the HHS Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) released a draft toxicological profile of four PFAS chemicals for public comment. ATSDR released the draft toxicological profile after coordinating with the EPA, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Department of Defense. The draft ATSDR toxicological profile was open for public comment until August 20 at: <http://www.regulations.gov/Document?D=ATSDR-2015-0004-0008>.

The EPA held a National Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. in May 2018 and visited several states across the nation to hear directly from communities about PFAS issues in their areas. From these engagements, the EPA heard clearly the public's desire for immediate action to address potential health and economic impacts on communities.

Using information from the National Leadership Summit, community engagements, and public comments submitted to the EPA, the Agency is continuing to develop a PFAS Management Plan. This Management Plan will provide the EPA's approach to identifying and understanding PFAS, the Agency's actions to address PFAS, and effective strategies for communicating with the public on PFAS. The EPA is working to release the plan as soon as possible.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 566-0780 or klasen.matthew@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 18, 2018

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 31, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and me, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule, the SAFE Vehicles rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program.

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Sincerely,

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Andrew R. Wheeler
Acting Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 18, 2018

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Jeff Colyer
Governor of Kansas
300 SW 10th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Governor Colyer:

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Andrew R. Wheeler
Acting Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 18, 2018

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Matthew G. Bevin
Governor of Kentucky
700 Capitol Avenue, Room 100
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Governor Bevin:

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Acting Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 18, 2018

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Paul R. LePage
Governor of Maine
1 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Governor LePage:

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Acting Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 18, 2018

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Phil Bryant
Governor of Mississippi
111 East Capitol Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Governor Bryant:

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Acting Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 18, 2018

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Pete Ricketts
Governor of Nebraska
P.O. Box 94922
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Dear Governor Ricketts:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 31, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and me, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule, the SAFE Vehicles rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program.

We will remain engaged with stakeholders, including auto manufacturers, parts suppliers, states, environmental, and other non-governmental groups as we work toward developing a final rule with NHTSA. We held three separate public hearings on the proposed rule in the following locations: Fresno, California; Dearborn, Michigan; and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where we heard testimony from more than 300 citizens and groups interested in this rule. The comment period for the proposed rule closed on October 26, and we will review all comments and information submitted to the agencies.

We appreciate your input and support on this important policy matter and have added your letter to the docket for the rulemaking, where it will be part of the public record.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact me or your staff may contact Troy Lyons, Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at lyons.troy@epa.gov or at 202-564-5200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew R. Wheeler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew R. Wheeler
Acting Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 18, 2018

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Governor of North Dakota
600 East Boulevard
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505

Dear Governor Burgum:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 31, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and me, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule, the SAFE Vehicles rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks.” In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program.

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Andrew R. Wheeler
Acting Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 18, 2018

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Mary Fallin
Governor of Oklahoma
2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Governor Fallin:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 31, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and me, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule, the SAFE Vehicles rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program.

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Andrew R. Wheeler
Acting Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Senator Brown:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

On June 20, 2018, the HHS Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) released a draft toxicological profile of four PFAS chemicals for public comment. ATSDR released the draft toxicological profile after coordinating with the EPA, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Department of Defense. The draft ATSDR toxicological profile was open for public comment until August 20 at: <http://www.regulations.gov/Document?D=ATSDR-2015-0004-0008>.

The EPA held a National Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. in May 2018 and visited several states across the nation to hear directly from communities about PFAS issues in their areas. From these engagements, the EPA heard clearly the public's desire for immediate action to address potential health and economic impacts on communities.

Using information from the National Leadership Summit, community engagements, and public comments submitted to the EPA, the Agency is continuing to develop a PFAS Management Plan. This Management Plan will provide the EPA's approach to identifying and understanding PFAS, the Agency's actions to address PFAS, and effective strategies for communicating with the public on PFAS. The EPA is working to release the plan as soon as possible.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 566-0780 or klasen.matthew@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Senator Reed:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Senator Casey:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Senator Portman:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Senator Moore Capito:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Senator Van Hollen:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

The Honorable Michael F. Bennet
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Senator Bennet:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Senator Nelson:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

The Honorable Joe Manchin, III
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Senator Manchin:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Senator Menendez:

Thank you for your June 8, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). We share your concern for communities facing contamination from PFOA, PFOS and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and we assure you this issue is a priority for the EPA.

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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 4, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman LaMalfa:

Thank you for your June 11, 2018 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the potential under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program for an "electric pathway."

EPA understands the importance of the RFS program to many stakeholders and appreciates your input regarding the potential benefits of generating Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs), the compliance credits under the RFS program, from electricity derived from forest biomass. EPA also understands the important role that forest biomass can play in supporting jobs and local economies, including in California.

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implementing the electric pathway. We continue to believe that the issues surrounding RIN generation for renewable electricity under the RFS program are not adequately addressed by our existing regulations and necessitate that these issues be addressed via regulatory changes.

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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W L Wehrum", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 4, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable John Garamendi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Garamendi:

Thank you for your June 11, 2018 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the potential under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program for an "electric pathway."

EPA understands the importance of the RFS program to many stakeholders and appreciates your input regarding the potential benefits of generating RINs (Renewable Identification Numbers), the compliance credits under the RFS program, from electricity derived from forest biomass. EPA also understands the important role that forest biomass can play in supporting jobs and local economies, including in California.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 4, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Paul Cook
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cook:

Thank you for your June 11, 2018 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the potential under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program for an "electric pathway."

EPA understands the importance of the RFS program to many stakeholders and appreciates your input regarding the potential benefits of generating RINs (Renewable Identification Numbers), the compliance credits under the RFS program, from electricity derived from forest biomass. EPA also understands the important role that forest biomass can play in supporting jobs and local economies, including in California.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 4, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ruiz:

Thank you for your June 11, 2018 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the potential under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program for an "electric pathway."

EPA understands the importance of the RFS program to many stakeholders and appreciates your input regarding the potential benefits of generating RINs (Renewable Identification Numbers), the compliance credits under the RFS program, from electricity derived from forest biomass. EPA also understands the important role that forest biomass can play in supporting jobs and local economies, including in California.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 4, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Dana Rohrabacher
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rohrabacher:

Thank you for your June 11, 2018 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the potential under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program for an "electric pathway."

EPA understands the importance of the RFS program to many stakeholders and appreciates your input regarding the potential benefits of generating RINs (Renewable Identification Numbers), the compliance credits under the RFS program, from electricity derived from forest biomass. EPA also understands the important role that forest biomass can play in supporting jobs and local economies, including in California.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 4, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Mimi Walters
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Walters:

Thank you for your June 11, 2018 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the potential under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program for an "electric pathway."

EPA understands the importance of the RFS program to many stakeholders and appreciates your input regarding the potential benefits of generating RINs (Renewable Identification Numbers), the compliance credits under the RFS program, from electricity derived from forest biomass. EPA also understands the important role that forest biomass can play in supporting jobs and local economies, including in California.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 4, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Devin Nunes
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Nunes:

Thank you for your June 11, 2018 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the potential under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program for an "electric pathway."

EPA understands the importance of the RFS program to many stakeholders and appreciates your input regarding the potential benefits of generating RINs (Renewable Identification Numbers), the compliance credits under the RFS program, from electricity derived from forest biomass. EPA also understands the important role that forest biomass can play in supporting jobs and local economies, including in California.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 4, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable David G. Valadao
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Valadao:

Thank you for your June 11, 2018 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the potential under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program for an "electric pathway."

EPA understands the importance of the RFS program to many stakeholders and appreciates your input regarding the potential benefits of generating RINs (Renewable Identification Numbers), the compliance credits under the RFS program, from electricity derived from forest biomass. EPA also understands the important role that forest biomass can play in supporting jobs and local economies, including in California.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

The Honorable Daniel T. Kildee
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Congressman Kildee:

Thank you for your October 1, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommending the EPA visit Oscoda, Michigan, during the EPA's engagement with communities impacted by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

The EPA coordinated closely with the states and local communities to plan and select a series of PFAS visits this year. Since the National Leadership Summit in May 2018, the EPA has worked to balance the Agency's desire to hear from as many communities as possible with the need to move thoughtfully but expeditiously to develop a national PFAS Management Plan.

As you know, representatives from the EPA visited locations across Michigan over the past few months including Mount Pleasant, Pinckney, Ann Arbor, and Parchment. The EPA also conducted a public roundtable meeting in Kalamazoo on October 5. During that meeting, the EPA appreciated hearing the perspectives of Oscoda Township and other Michigan stakeholders. While the EPA was unable to accommodate a visit to Oscoda, I want to be clear, EPA officials will continue to be in the field working with the state of Michigan to assist communities.

The EPA appreciates your interest and understands the importance of this issue to the people of Michigan. Using information from the National Leadership Summit, community engagements, and public comments submitted to the EPA, the Agency is continuing to develop a PFAS Management Plan. This Management Plan will provide the EPA's approach to identifying and understanding PFAS, the Agency's actions to address PFAS, and effective strategies for communicating with the public on PFAS. The EPA is working to release the plan as soon as possible.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Ross", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Mike Quigley
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Quigley:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

The EPA agrees with GAO's findings and recommendations in its final report. The EPA has begun implementing GAO's recommendation that the Agency and the U.S. Department of Education collaborate in support of state and school district efforts on lead in drinking water. As GAO noted, federal law does not require testing of drinking water in schools and child care facilities, except for those that have and/or operate their own public water system and are therefore subject to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The EPA encourages and provides guidance for schools and child care facilities to help reduce their lead levels and prioritize remediation efforts based on lead sample results. States and local jurisdictions may establish their own programs for testing drinking water lead levels in schools and child care facilities.

The EPA and the Department of Education are working together to support successful implementation of the Lead Testing in School and Child Care grant program, authorized in Section 2107 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (Public Law No. 114-322). This grant program received \$20 million in appropriations in fiscal year 2018. The EPA launched this grant program in September 2018 by sending a letter to each state's Governor. The EPA and the Department of Education have also begun collaborating on initiatives to provide training and to help implement tools and resources that support healthy drinking water for students.

The EPA recently released a revised *3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities* guidance to update information on sampling protocols and best practices for schools, including removing old water fountains or installing filtration devices. The 3Ts stand for: Training, Testing, and Taking Action. The revised version is available in an interactive web format and includes modules, customizable templates, and tools that can help schools when implementing their lead testing programs. Together, the EPA's new lead testing grant program and the 3Ts guidance provide states, schools, and child care facilities with important tools to help protect children from lead in drinking water.

The EPA's Office of Water and Office of Children's Health Protection continue to collaborate to support school and child care lead in drinking water prevention initiatives, including the Agency's 3Ts guidance. The EPA is working with the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other stakeholders to ensure that school districts and child care programs are aware of these resources.

In March 2018, consistent with Executive Order 13132 on Federalism, the EPA conducted consultations with state and local government officials on potential revisions to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation: Lead and Copper, including possible requirements for community water systems to perform testing at schools and child care facilities that they serve. For more information see: <https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/lcr-federalism-consultation>.

Again, thank you for your letter and commitment to ensuring that states and localities have the funding and resources necessary to conduct testing and remediate lead in their schools. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman DeLauro:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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Again, thank you for your letter and commitment to ensuring that states and localities have the funding and resources necessary to conduct testing and remediate lead in their schools. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Ross".

David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Paul D. Tonko
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

The EPA agrees with GAO's findings and recommendations in its final report. The EPA has begun implementing GAO's recommendation that the Agency and the U.S. Department of Education collaborate in support of state and school district efforts on lead in drinking water. As GAO noted, federal law does not require testing of drinking water in schools and child care facilities, except for those that have and/or operate their own public water system and are therefore subject to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The EPA encourages and provides guidance for schools and child care facilities to help reduce their lead levels and prioritize remediation efforts based on lead sample results. States and local jurisdictions may establish their own programs for testing drinking water lead levels in schools and child care facilities.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Holmes Norton:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Salud Carbajal
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carbajal:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Debbie Schultz
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schultz:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Nanette Barragan
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Barragan:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Andre Carson
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carson:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Gwen Moore
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Moore:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Meeks:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hastings:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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Again, thank you for your letter and commitment to ensuring that states and localities have the funding and resources necessary to conduct testing and remediate lead in their schools. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

The EPA agrees with GAO's findings and recommendations in its final report. The EPA has begun implementing GAO's recommendation that the Agency and the U.S. Department of Education collaborate in support of state and school district efforts on lead in drinking water. As GAO noted, federal law does not require testing of drinking water in schools and child care facilities, except for those that have and/or operate their own public water system and are therefore subject to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The EPA encourages and provides guidance for schools and child care facilities to help reduce their lead levels and prioritize remediation efforts based on lead sample results. States and local jurisdictions may establish their own programs for testing drinking water lead levels in schools and child care facilities.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Michael E. Capuano
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Capuano:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Val Demings
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Demings:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rush:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Jose Serrano
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Serrano:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Seth Moulton
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Moulton:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bonamici:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Watson Coleman:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Timothy J. Ryan
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ryan:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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The EPA's Office of Water and Office of Children's Health Protection continue to collaborate to support school and child care lead in drinking water prevention initiatives, including the Agency's 3Ts guidance. The EPA is working with the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other stakeholders to ensure that school districts and child care programs are aware of these resources.

In March 2018, consistent with Executive Order 13132 on Federalism, the EPA conducted consultations with state and local government officials on potential revisions to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation: Lead and Copper, including possible requirements for community water systems to perform testing at schools and child care facilities that they serve. For more information see: <https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/lcr-federalism-consultation>.

Again, thank you for your letter and commitment to ensuring that states and localities have the funding and resources necessary to conduct testing and remediate lead in their schools. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Ross".

David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Brendan Boyle
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Boyle:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Daniel Kildee
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kildee:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Dwight Evans
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Evans:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Velazquez:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Dingell:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Al Green
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Green:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gabbard:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Blumenauer:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

The EPA agrees with GAO's findings and recommendations in its final report. The EPA has begun implementing GAO's recommendation that the Agency and the U.S. Department of Education collaborate in support of state and school district efforts on lead in drinking water. As GAO noted, federal law does not require testing of drinking water in schools and child care facilities, except for those that have and/or operate their own public water system and are therefore subject to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The EPA encourages and provides guidance for schools and child care facilities to help reduce their lead levels and prioritize remediation efforts based on lead sample results. States and local jurisdictions may establish their own programs for testing drinking water lead levels in schools and child care facilities.

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The EPA's Office of Water and Office of Children's Health Protection continue to collaborate to support school and child care lead in drinking water prevention initiatives, including the Agency's 3Ts guidance. The EPA is working with the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other stakeholders to ensure that school districts and child care programs are aware of these resources.

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Again, thank you for your letter and commitment to ensuring that states and localities have the funding and resources necessary to conduct testing and remediate lead in their schools. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Ross".

David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Brenda Lawrence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lawrence:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable John Lewis
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lewis:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Krishnamoorthi:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Raskin:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz:

Thank you for your August 20, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s findings and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" (GAO-18-382). Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure.

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Sincerely,

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David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable David G. Valadao
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Valadao:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018, regarding a Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program small refinery exemption (SRE) petition submitted by Kern Oil & Refining Company.

The RFS program plays a significant role in both fuel and agriculture policy across the country, and we understand the importance of the program to companies and communities in California. Further, we appreciate the significance of SRE decisions nationwide, and we will continue to implement these provisions of the statute in a fair and effective manner as expeditiously as possible.

We have received Kern Oil's petition, which seeks relief from its 2017 compliance obligations under the RFS program. The small refineries submitting petitions have asserted a claim of confidentiality over the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decisions on these petitions. As such, EPA treats its decisions on small refinery exemptions as confidential business information. For that reason, when a final decision is issued, I cannot share specifics on that decision with you. We appreciate, however, that both you and Kern Oil are interested in seeing a decision issued as quickly as possible. We hope to have the decision soon, but at this point we cannot provide more detail or timing.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or 202-564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McCarthy:

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Devin Nunes
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Nunes:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018, regarding a Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program small refinery exemption (SRE) petition submitted by Kern Oil & Refining Company.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Jim Costa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Costa:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018, regarding a Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program small refinery exemption (SRE) petition submitted by Kern Oil & Refining Company.

The RFS program plays a significant role in both fuel and agriculture policy across the country, and we understand the importance of the program to companies and communities in California. Further, we appreciate the significance of SRE decisions nationwide, and we will continue to implement these provisions of the statute in a fair and effective manner as expeditiously as possible.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sensenbrenner:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 11, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler regarding your concerns over extending the 1 pound Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver to gasoline containing 15 percent ethanol (E15).

Both Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program and the impact this program has on stakeholders across the country. We recognize that you have a long-standing interest in this matter, and that you have had extensive engagement over the course of many years with stakeholders that might be affected by this change. Thank you for your input on this important public policy matter.

As you are aware, on October 9, 2018, President Trump directed EPA to undertake a single Clean Air Act rulemaking that would accomplish two objectives. First, the rule would modify our regulations to allow E15 to take advantage of the 1-pound per square inch (psi) RVP waiver that currently applies to E10 during the summer months. Second, the rule would change certain elements of the renewable identification number (RIN) compliance system under the RFS program to improve both RIN market transparency and overall functioning of the RIN market in response to concerns from several refineries.

With respect to the E15-related portion of this rule, we understand that many stakeholders are interested in the details of this action, or have concerns they wish to share with the Agency. We have already begun work on the proposed rulemaking, which will be subject to a notice-and-comment process and will therefore present an opportunity for all stakeholders to review the proposal and provide input. We currently are planning to issue the proposed rule in early February 2019, after which we will hold a public hearing. Our goal is to finalize the rule before June 1, 2019. In the meantime, my technical team continues to engage with a variety of interested stakeholders on this topic, and we welcome further input.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W L Wehrum', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 20, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Lou Barletta
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Barletta:

Thank you for your September 14, 2018 letter to President Donald Trump, regarding your concerns about the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program and its impact on Pennsylvania refineries and workers. Your letter was forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for response.

Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program and the impact this program has on stakeholders across the country. We further recognize the important role of the refining sector in ensuring the energy security of the United States, as well as the importance of refining jobs to the communities in which the refineries are located, in Pennsylvania and beyond.

The Agency is working on multiple actions that will affect the RFS program and its stakeholders. On October 9, President Trump directed EPA to undertake a single Clean Air Act rulemaking that would accomplish two objectives. First, the rule would modify our regulations to allow E15 to take advantage of the 1-pound per square inch (psi) Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver that currently applies to E10 during the summer months. Second, the rule would change certain elements of the renewable identification number (RIN) compliance system under the RFS program to improve both RIN market transparency and overall functioning of the RIN market in response to concerns from several refineries.

The proposed provisions should directly address some of the concerns your letter raises. While details of the proposal have yet to be finalized, EPA is currently considering a number of regulatory reforms that could be included in the proposal, such as: prohibiting entities other than obligated parties from purchasing separated RINs; requiring public disclosure when RIN holdings held by an individual actor exceed specified limits; limiting the length of time a non-obligated party can hold RINs; and changing the timelines that apply to obligated parties regarding when RINs must be retired for compliance purposes. EPA will go through a notice-and-comment rulemaking process to provide the public an opportunity to submit input to the Agency. Our goal is to propose this rule in early 2019.

Beyond that rulemaking, we are taking steps to increase transparency in all aspects of the RFS program. For example, we have made additional information available through our public website regarding RFS exemptions for small refineries.¹ The website publishes data on a variety of topics of interest to stakeholders, including the number of small refinery exemption petitions received, granted, and denied by year and the fuel volume exempted by year. We intend to update these data regularly going forward. We believe this additional information will increase the transparency of the RIN market, and positively impact administration of the RFS program for all stakeholders.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W L Wehrum', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/fuels-registration-reporting-and-compliance-help/public-data-renewable-fuel-standard>



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 20, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Bill Shuster
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shuster:

Thank you for your September 14, 2018 letter to President Donald Trump, regarding your concerns about the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program and its impact on Pennsylvania refineries and workers. Your letter was forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for response.

Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program and the impact this program has on stakeholders across the country. We further recognize the important role of the refining sector in ensuring the energy security of the United States, as well as the importance of refining jobs to the communities in which the refineries are located, in Pennsylvania and beyond.

The Agency is working on multiple actions that will affect the RFS program and its stakeholders. On October 9, President Trump directed EPA to undertake a single Clean Air Act rulemaking that would accomplish two objectives. First, the rule would modify our regulations to allow E15 to take advantage of the 1-pound per square inch (psi) Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver that currently applies to E10 during the summer months. Second, the rule would change certain elements of the renewable identification number (RIN) compliance system under the RFS program to improve both RIN market transparency and overall functioning of the RIN market in response to concerns from several refineries.

The proposed provisions should directly address some of the concerns your letter raises. While details of the proposal have yet to be finalized, EPA is currently considering a number of regulatory reforms that could be included in the proposal, such as: prohibiting entities other than obligated parties from purchasing separated RINs; requiring public disclosure when RIN holdings held by an individual actor exceed specified limits; limiting the length of time a non-obligated party can hold RINs; and changing the timelines that apply to obligated parties regarding when RINs must be retired for compliance purposes. EPA will go through a notice-and-comment rulemaking process to provide the public an opportunity to submit input to the Agency. Our goal is to propose this rule in early 2019.

Beyond that rulemaking, we are taking steps to increase transparency in all aspects of the RFS program. For example, we have made additional information available through our public website regarding RFS exemptions for small refineries.² The website publishes data on a variety of topics of interest to stakeholders, including the number of small refinery exemption petitions received, granted, and denied by year and the fuel volume exempted by year. We intend to update these data regularly going forward. We believe this additional information will increase the transparency of the RIN market, and positively impact administration of the RFS program for all stakeholders.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/fuels-registration-reporting-and-compliance-help/public-data-renewable-fuel-standard>



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 20, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Keith J. Rothfus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rothfus:

Thank you for your September 14, 2018 letter to President Donald Trump, regarding your concerns about the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program and its impact on Pennsylvania refineries and workers. Your letter was forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for response.

Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program and the impact this program has on stakeholders across the country. We further recognize the important role of the refining sector in ensuring the energy security of the United States, as well as the importance of refining jobs to the communities in which the refineries are located, in Pennsylvania and beyond.

The Agency is working on multiple actions that will affect the RFS program and its stakeholders. On October 9, President Trump directed EPA to undertake a single Clean Air Act rulemaking that would accomplish two objectives. First, the rule would modify our regulations to allow E15 to take advantage of the 1-pound per square inch (psi) Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver that currently applies to E10 during the summer months. Second, the rule would change certain elements of the renewable identification number (RIN) compliance system under the RFS program to improve both RIN market transparency and overall functioning of the RIN market in response to concerns from several refineries.

The proposed provisions should directly address some of the concerns your letter raises. While details of the proposal have yet to be finalized, EPA is currently considering a number of regulatory reforms that could be included in the proposal, such as: prohibiting entities other than obligated parties from purchasing separated RINs; requiring public disclosure when RIN holdings held by an individual actor exceed specified limits; limiting the length of time a non-obligated party can hold RINs; and changing the timelines that apply to obligated parties regarding when RINs must be retired for compliance purposes. EPA will go through a notice-and-comment rulemaking process to provide the public an opportunity to submit input to the Agency. Our goal is to propose this rule in early 2019.

Beyond that rulemaking, we are taking steps to increase transparency in all aspects of the RFS program. For example, we have made additional information available through our public website regarding RFS exemptions for small refineries.³ The website publishes data on a variety of topics of interest to stakeholders, including the number of small refinery exemption petitions received, granted, and denied by year and the fuel volume exempted by year. We intend to update these data regularly going forward. We believe this additional information will increase the transparency of the RIN market, and positively impact administration of the RFS program for all stakeholders.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator

³<https://www.epa.gov/fuels-registration-reporting-and-compliance-help/public-data-renewable-fuel-standard>



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 20, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Scott Perry
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Perry:

Thank you for your September 14, 2018 letter to President Donald Trump, regarding your concerns about the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program and its impact on Pennsylvania refineries and workers. Your letter was forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for response.

Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program and the impact this program has on stakeholders across the country. We further recognize the important role of the refining sector in ensuring the energy security of the United States, as well as the importance of refining jobs to the communities in which the refineries are located, in Pennsylvania and beyond.

The Agency is working on multiple actions that will affect the RFS program and its stakeholders. On October 9, President Trump directed EPA to undertake a single Clean Air Act rulemaking that would accomplish two objectives. First, the rule would modify our regulations to allow E15 to take advantage of the 1-pound per square inch (psi) Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver that currently applies to E10 during the summer months. Second, the rule would change certain elements of the renewable identification number (RIN) compliance system under the RFS program to improve both RIN market transparency and overall functioning of the RIN market in response to concerns from several refineries.

The proposed provisions should directly address some of the concerns your letter raises. While details of the proposal have yet to be finalized, EPA is currently considering a number of regulatory reforms that could be included in the proposal, such as: prohibiting entities other than obligated parties from purchasing separated RINs; requiring public disclosure when RIN holdings held by an individual actor exceed specified limits; limiting the length of time a non-obligated party can hold RINs; and changing the timelines that apply to obligated parties regarding when RINs must be retired for compliance purposes. EPA will go through a notice-and-comment rulemaking process to provide the public an opportunity to submit input to the Agency. Our goal is to propose this rule in early 2019.

Beyond that rulemaking, we are taking steps to increase transparency in all aspects of the RFS program. For example, we have made additional information available through our public website regarding RFS exemptions for small refineries.⁴ The website publishes data on a variety of topics of interest to stakeholders, including the number of small refinery exemption petitions received, granted, and denied by year and the fuel volume exempted by year. We intend to update these data regularly going forward. We believe this additional information will increase the transparency of the RIN market, and positively impact administration of the RFS program for all stakeholders.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator

⁴ <https://www.epa.gov/fuels-registration-reporting-and-compliance-help/public-data-renewable-fuel-standard>



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 20, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Ryan A. Costello
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Costello:

Thank you for your September 14, 2018 letter to President Donald Trump, regarding your concerns about the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program and its impact on Pennsylvania refineries and workers. Your letter was forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for response.

Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program and the impact this program has on stakeholders across the country. We further recognize the important role of the refining sector in ensuring the energy security of the United States, as well as the importance of refining jobs to the communities in which the refineries are located, in Pennsylvania and beyond.

The Agency is working on multiple actions that will affect the RFS program and its stakeholders. On October 9, President Trump directed EPA to undertake a single Clean Air Act rulemaking that would accomplish two objectives. First, the rule would modify our regulations to allow E15 to take advantage of the 1-pound per square inch (psi) Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver that currently applies to E10 during the summer months. Second, the rule would change certain elements of the renewable identification number (RIN) compliance system under the RFS program to improve both RIN market transparency and overall functioning of the RIN market in response to concerns from several refineries.

The proposed provisions should directly address some of the concerns your letter raises. While details of the proposal have yet to be finalized, EPA is currently considering a number of regulatory reforms that could be included in the proposal, such as: prohibiting entities other than obligated parties from purchasing separated RINs; requiring public disclosure when RIN holdings held by an individual actor exceed specified limits; limiting the length of time a non-obligated party can hold RINs; and changing the timelines that apply to obligated parties regarding when RINs must be retired for compliance purposes. EPA will go through a notice-and-comment rulemaking process to provide the public an opportunity to submit input to the Agency. Our goal is to propose this rule in early 2019.

Beyond that rulemaking, we are taking steps to increase transparency in all aspects of the RFS program. For example, we have made additional information available through our public website regarding RFS exemptions for small refineries.⁵ The website publishes data on a variety of topics of interest to stakeholders, including the number of small refinery exemption petitions received, granted, and denied by year and the fuel volume exempted by year. We intend to update these data regularly going forward. We believe this additional information will increase the transparency of the RIN market, and positively impact administration of the RFS program for all stakeholders.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator

⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/fuels-registration-reporting-and-compliance-help/public-data-renewable-fuel-standard>



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 6, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Bill Posey
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Posey:

Thank you for your letter of October 10, 2018, to Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler regarding glider vehicles. In your letter, you urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue a compliance extension for glider vehicles pursuant to Section 705 of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The Acting Administrator asked that I respond on his behalf.

EPA is currently reviewing your suggestion, as well as other policy options relevant to this matter. We understand the need to move forward quickly, and we will continue to seek an appropriate resolution to this issue that is consistent with the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the APA. We recognize that there are real economic impacts at stake for industry and workers.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "W L Wehrum", is positioned above the printed name.

William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 6, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Ralph Abraham, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Abraham:

Thank you for your letter of October 10, 2018, to Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler regarding glider vehicles. In your letter, you urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue a compliance extension for glider vehicles pursuant to Section 705 of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The Acting Administrator asked that I respond on his behalf.

EPA is currently reviewing your suggestion, as well as other policy options relevant to this matter. We understand the need to move forward quickly, and we will continue to seek an appropriate resolution to this issue that is consistent with the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the APA. We recognize that there are real economic impacts at stake for industry and workers.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 6, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Steve King
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman King:

Thank you for your letter of October 10, 2018, to Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler regarding glider vehicles. In your letter, you urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue a compliance extension for glider vehicles pursuant to Section 705 of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The Acting Administrator asked that I respond on his behalf.

EPA is currently reviewing your suggestion, as well as other policy options relevant to this matter. We understand the need to move forward quickly, and we will continue to seek an appropriate resolution to this issue that is consistent with the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the APA. We recognize that there are real economic impacts at stake for industry and workers.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 6, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable James Comer
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Comer:

Thank you for your letter of October 10, 2018, to Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler regarding glider vehicles. In your letter, you urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue a compliance extension for glider vehicles pursuant to Section 705 of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The Acting Administrator asked that I respond on his behalf.

EPA is currently reviewing your suggestion, as well as other policy options relevant to this matter. We understand the need to move forward quickly, and we will continue to seek an appropriate resolution to this issue that is consistent with the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the APA. We recognize that there are real economic impacts at stake for industry and workers.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 6, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Randy Weber
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Weber:

Thank you for your letter of October 10, 2018, to Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler regarding glider vehicles. In your letter, you urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue a compliance extension for glider vehicles pursuant to Section 705 of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The Acting Administrator asked that I respond on his behalf.

EPA is currently reviewing your suggestion, as well as other policy options relevant to this matter. We understand the need to move forward quickly, and we will continue to seek an appropriate resolution to this issue that is consistent with the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the APA. We recognize that there are real economic impacts at stake for industry and workers.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 6, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Brian Babin
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Babin:

Thank you for your letter of October 10, 2018, to Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler regarding glider vehicles. In your letter, you urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue a compliance extension for glider vehicles pursuant to Section 705 of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The Acting Administrator asked that I respond on his behalf.

EPA is currently reviewing your suggestion, as well as other policy options relevant to this matter. We understand the need to move forward quickly, and we will continue to seek an appropriate resolution to this issue that is consistent with the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the APA. We recognize that there are real economic impacts at stake for industry and workers.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 6, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Andy Biggs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Biggs:

Thank you for your letter of October 10, 2018, to Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler regarding glider vehicles. In your letter, you urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue a compliance extension for glider vehicles pursuant to Section 705 of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The Acting Administrator asked that I respond on his behalf.

EPA is currently reviewing your suggestion, as well as other policy options relevant to this matter. We understand the need to move forward quickly, and we will continue to seek an appropriate resolution to this issue that is consistent with the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the APA. We recognize that there are real economic impacts at stake for industry and workers.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

On August 2, 2018, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks.” In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

As EPA and NHTSA work towards developing a final rule, we will remain engaged with stakeholders, including auto manufacturers, parts suppliers, states, and environmental and other non-governmental groups. We held three public hearings on the proposed rule, where we heard input from members of the public and many groups interested in this rule. Over the course of the three hearings, held in Fresno, California, Dearborn, Michigan, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, we heard testimony from over 300 citizens and groups. The comment period for the proposed rule closed on October 26 resulting in over 450,000 written comments. We are reviewing all comments and information submitted to the agencies. We appreciate your input on this important policy matter, and have added your letter to the docket for the rulemaking, where it will be part of the public record.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Harris:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

On August 2, 2018, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks.” In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

On August 2, 2018, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks.” In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Tom Carper
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Carper:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Van Hollen:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

On August 2, 2018, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks.” In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

On August 2, 2018, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks.” In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Michael F. Bennet
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murphy:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

On August 2, 2018, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks.” In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

As EPA and NHTSA work towards developing a final rule, we will remain engaged with stakeholders, including auto manufacturers, parts suppliers, states, and environmental and other non-governmental groups. We held three public hearings on the proposed rule, where we heard input from members of the public and many groups interested in this rule. Over the course of the three hearings, held in Fresno, California, Dearborn, Michigan, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, we heard testimony from over 300 citizens and groups. The comment period for the proposed rule closed on October 26 resulting in over 450,000 written comments. We are reviewing all comments and information submitted to the agencies. We appreciate your input on this important policy matter, and have added your letter to the docket for the rulemaking, where it will be part of the public record.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hassan:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Christopher A. Coons
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coons:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2018, to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Wheeler, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule and your interest in maintaining a coordinated national program. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on his behalf.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Jared Huffman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Huffman:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or 202-564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Carlos Curbelo
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Curbelo:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Nanette Diaz Barragán
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Barragán:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Blumenauer:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bonamici:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Julia Brownley
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Brownley:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Salud O. Carbajal
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carbajal:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable André Carson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carson:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cartwright:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Judy Chu
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Chu:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Jim Costa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Costa:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Katherine M. Clark
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clark:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

As EPA and NHTSA work toward developing a final rule, we will remain engaged with stakeholders, including auto manufacturers, parts suppliers, states, and environmental and other non-governmental groups. We recently held three public hearings on the proposed rule, where we heard input from members of the public and many groups interested in this rule. Over the course of the three hearings, held in Fresno, California, Dearborn, Michigan, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, we heard testimony from more than 300 citizens and groups. The comment period on the proposed rule closed on October 26 resulting in over 450,000 written comments. We are reviewing all comments and information submitted to the agencies. We appreciate your input on this important policy matter and have added your letter to the docket for the rulemaking, where it will be part of the public record.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or 202-564-1142.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W L Wehrum", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable J. Luis Correa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Correa:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Joe Courtney
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Courtney:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Susan A. Davis
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Davis:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman DeSaulnier:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Doggett:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Adriano Espaillat
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Espaillat:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Fitzpatrick:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable John Garamendi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Garamendi:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Jimmy Gomez
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gomez:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Hanabusa:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Brian Higgins
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Higgins:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

As EPA and NHTSA work toward developing a final rule, we will remain engaged with stakeholders, including auto manufacturers, parts suppliers, states, and environmental and other non-governmental groups. We recently held three public hearings on the proposed rule, where we heard input from members of the public and many groups interested in this rule. Over the course of the three hearings, held in Fresno, California, Dearborn, Michigan, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, we heard testimony from more than 300 citizens and groups. The comment period on the proposed rule closed on October 26 resulting in over 450,000 written comments. We are reviewing all comments and information submitted to the agencies. We appreciate your input on this important policy matter and have added your letter to the docket for the rulemaking, where it will be part of the public record.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or 202-564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Jackson Lee:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Jayapal:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Krishnamoorthi:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Ro Khanna
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Khanna:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Daniel W. Lipinski
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lipinski:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lofgren:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lowenthal:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lynch:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Betty McCollum
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman McCollum:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable A. Donald McEachin
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McEachin:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable James P. McGovern
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McGovern:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Jerry McNerney
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McNerney:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Grace Meng
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Meng:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Gwen Moore
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Moore:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

As EPA and NHTSA work toward developing a final rule, we will remain engaged with stakeholders, including auto manufacturers, parts suppliers, states, and environmental and other non-governmental groups. We recently held three public hearings on the proposed rule, where we heard input from members of the public and many groups interested in this rule. Over the course of the three hearings, held in Fresno, California, Dearborn, Michigan, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, we heard testimony from more than 300 citizens and groups. The comment period on the proposed rule closed on October 26 resulting in over 450,000 written comments. We are reviewing all comments and information submitted to the agencies. We appreciate your input on this important policy matter and have added your letter to the docket for the rulemaking, where it will be part of the public record.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or 202-564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Napolitano:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Panetta:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Ed Perlmutter
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Perlmutter:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Scott Peters
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Peters:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Pingree:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Mark Pocan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pocan:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Mike Quigley
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Quigley:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Raskin:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Tom Reed
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Reed:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Roybal-Allard:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ruiz:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rush:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Tim Ryan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ryan:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

As EPA and NHTSA work toward developing a final rule, we will remain engaged with stakeholders, including auto manufacturers, parts suppliers, states, and environmental and other non-governmental groups. We recently held three public hearings on the proposed rule, where we heard input from members of the public and many groups interested in this rule. Over the course of the three hearings, held in Fresno, California, Dearborn, Michigan, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, we heard testimony from more than 300 citizens and groups. The comment period on the proposed rule closed on October 26 resulting in over 450,000 written comments. We are reviewing all comments and information submitted to the agencies. We appreciate your input on this important policy matter and have added your letter to the docket for the rulemaking, where it will be part of the public record.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or 202-564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Adam B. Schiff
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Schiff:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Carol Shea-Porter
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Shea-Porter:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Albio Sires
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sires:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Darren Soto
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Soto:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Jackie Speier
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Speier:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Elise M. Stefanik
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Stefanik:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Mark Takano
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Takano:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Mike Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Paul D. Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Niki Tsongas
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Tsongas:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Nydia M. Velázquez
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Velázquez:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Peter Welch
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Welch:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

As EPA and NHTSA work toward developing a final rule, we will remain engaged with stakeholders, including auto manufacturers, parts suppliers, states, and environmental and other non-governmental groups. We recently held three public hearings on the proposed rule, where we heard input from members of the public and many groups interested in this rule. Over the course of the three hearings, held in Fresno, California, Dearborn, Michigan, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, we heard testimony from more than 300 citizens and groups. The comment period on the proposed rule closed on October 26 resulting in over 450,000 written comments. We are reviewing all comments and information submitted to the agencies. We appreciate your input on this important policy matter and have added your letter to the docket for the rulemaking, where it will be part of the public record.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or 202-564-1142.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W L Wehrum", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Wilson:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Karen Bass
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bass:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and myself, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler asked that I respond on behalf of the Agency.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued a proposed rule titled the "SAFE Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also sought comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program. In addition, EPA proposed to revoke the Clean Air Act waiver pertaining to the Advanced Clean Car program, that allows California to enforce greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles and zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandates for 2021 and later model year vehicles.

As EPA and NHTSA work toward developing a final rule, we will remain engaged with stakeholders, including auto manufacturers, parts suppliers, states, and environmental and other non-governmental groups. We recently held three public hearings on the proposed rule, where we heard input from members of the public and many groups interested in this rule. Over the course of the three hearings, held in Fresno, California, Dearborn, Michigan, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, we heard testimony from more than 300 citizens and groups. The comment period on the proposed rule closed on October 26 resulting in over 450,000 written comments. We are reviewing all comments and information submitted to the agencies. We appreciate your input on this important policy matter and have added your letter to the docket for the rulemaking, where it will be part of the public record.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or 202-564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 20, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 3, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler regarding the generation of Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) in the Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS) program for electricity generated from biomass that is used as transportation fuel.

EPA understands the importance of the RFS program to many stakeholders and appreciates your input regarding the potential benefits of generating RINs for electricity derived from biomass. As your letter notes, in 2014 EPA created a RFS pathway in our regulations that would allow parties to generate RINs for qualifying biogas-based electricity used for charging electric vehicles. Following establishment of that pathway, EPA received multiple applications and expressions of interest from parties interested in registering with EPA to produce RINs under the pathway. A number of these applications took significantly different approaches to how such a pathway would be implemented by EPA in practice. After evaluating these different approaches, and in light of the complexity associated with tracking valid credit generation and qualified use under the program, EPA concluded that it was necessary to develop and implement additional regulatory provisions to assure that any electricity RIN (e-RIN) program would contain appropriate programmatic safeguards.

To that end, in November 2016, EPA published a proposed rule entitled Renewables Enhancement and Growth Support (REGS) that sought public comment on designing a verifiable electric pathway program. This included identifying which party in the vehicle charging process should generate RINs, what data is necessary to demonstrate the use of electricity as a transportation fuel, and how third-party aggregators could be allowed to participate. Specifically, EPA asked for data, information, and factors to consider when designing a regulatory program for the electric pathway. It is important to note that in the 2016 REGS proposal, EPA only sought comments on the electric pathway but made no regulatory proposal for implementation. We further note that no pathway currently exists for RINs to be generated for electricity generated from direct combustion of biomass.

Since the REGS proposed rule comment period closed, staff have been going through the many comments received, evaluating the various implementation options raised by the comments, and exploring procedural options for resolving the complex issues associated with implementing the electricity pathway. We continue to believe that the issues surrounding RIN generation for renewable electricity under the RFS program are not adequately addressed by our existing regulations and necessitate that these issues be addressed via regulatory changes.

We will continue to pursue the development of additional regulatory provisions to ensure that any "e-RIN" program will contain appropriate programmatic safeguards and create a fair playing field for all program participants. We are currently not in a position to share a timeline for such work, due in particular to competing fuels policy priorities, but will continue to engage with stakeholders.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 20, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hassan:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 3, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler regarding the generation of Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) in the Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS) program for electricity generated from biomass that is used as transportation fuel.

EPA understands the importance of the RFS program to many stakeholders and appreciates your input regarding the potential benefits of generating RINs for electricity derived from biomass. As your letter notes, in 2014 EPA created a RFS pathway in our regulations that would allow parties to generate RINs for qualifying biogas-based electricity used for charging electric vehicles. Following establishment of that pathway, EPA received multiple applications and expressions of interest from parties interested in registering with EPA to produce RINs under the pathway. A number of these applications took significantly different approaches to how such a pathway would be implemented by EPA in practice. After evaluating these different approaches, and in light of the complexity associated with tracking valid credit generation and qualified use under the program, EPA concluded that it was necessary to develop and implement additional regulatory provisions to assure that any electricity RIN (e-RIN) program would contain appropriate programmatic safeguards.

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We will continue to pursue the development of additional regulatory provisions to ensure that any "e-RIN" program will contain appropriate programmatic safeguards and create a fair playing field for all program participants. We are currently not in a position to share a timeline for such work, due in particular to competing fuels policy priorities, but will continue to engage with stakeholders.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 20, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Carol Shea-Porter
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Shea-Porter:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 3, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler regarding the generation of Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) in the Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS) program for electricity generated from biomass that is used as transportation fuel.

EPA understands the importance of the RFS program to many stakeholders and appreciates your input regarding the potential benefits of generating RINs for electricity derived from biomass. As your letter notes, in 2014 EPA created a RFS pathway in our regulations that would allow parties to generate RINs for qualifying biogas-based electricity used for charging electric vehicles. Following establishment of that pathway, EPA received multiple applications and expressions of interest from parties interested in registering with EPA to produce RINs under the pathway. A number of these applications took significantly different approaches to how such a pathway would be implemented by EPA in practice. After evaluating these different approaches, and in light of the complexity associated with tracking valid credit generation and qualified use under the program, EPA concluded that it was necessary to develop and implement additional regulatory provisions to assure that any electricity RIN (e-RIN) program would contain appropriate programmatic safeguards.

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We will continue to pursue the development of additional regulatory provisions to ensure that any "e-RIN" program will contain appropriate programmatic safeguards and create a fair playing field for all program participants. We are currently not in a position to share a timeline for such work, due in particular to competing fuels policy priorities, but will continue to engage with stakeholders.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or (202) 564-1142.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 20, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Ann McLane Kuster
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kuster:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 3, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler regarding the generation of Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) in the Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS) program for electricity generated from biomass that is used as transportation fuel.

EPA understands the importance of the RFS program to many stakeholders and appreciates your input regarding the potential benefits of generating RINs for electricity derived from biomass. As your letter notes, in 2014 EPA created a RFS pathway in our regulations that would allow parties to generate RINs for qualifying biogas-based electricity used for charging electric vehicles. Following establishment of that pathway, EPA received multiple applications and expressions of interest from parties interested in registering with EPA to produce RINs under the pathway. A number of these applications took significantly different approaches to how such a pathway would be implemented by EPA in practice. After evaluating these different approaches, and in light of the complexity associated with tracking valid credit generation and qualified use under the program, EPA concluded that it was necessary to develop and implement additional regulatory provisions to assure that any electricity RIN (e-RIN) program would contain appropriate programmatic safeguards.

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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact Karen Thundiyil in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Lou Barletta
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Barletta:

Thank you for your September 14, 2018 letter to President Donald Trump, regarding your concerns about the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program and its impact on Pennsylvania refineries and workers. Your letter was forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for response.

Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program and the impact this program has on stakeholders across the country. We further recognize the important role of the refining sector in ensuring the energy security of the United States, as well as the importance of refining jobs to the communities in which the refineries are located, in Pennsylvania and beyond.

The Agency is working on multiple actions that will affect the RFS program and its stakeholders. On October 9, President Trump directed EPA to undertake a single Clean Air Act rulemaking that would accomplish two objectives. First, the rule would modify our regulations to allow E15 to take advantage of the 1-pound per square inch (psi) Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver that currently applies to E10 during the summer months. Second, the rule would change certain elements of the renewable identification number (RIN) compliance system under the RFS program to improve both RIN market transparency and overall functioning of the RIN market in response to concerns from several refineries.

The proposed provisions should directly address some of the concerns your letter raises. While details of the proposal have yet to be finalized, EPA is currently considering a number of regulatory reforms that could be included in the proposal, such as: prohibiting entities other than obligated parties from purchasing separated RINs; requiring public disclosure when RIN holdings held by an individual actor exceed specified limits; limiting the length of time a non-obligated party can hold RINs; and changing the timelines that apply to obligated parties regarding when RINs must be retired for compliance purposes. EPA will go through a notice-and-comment rulemaking process to provide the public an opportunity to submit input to the Agency. Our goal is to propose this rule in early 2019.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Bill Shuster
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shuster:

Thank you for your September 14, 2018 letter to President Donald Trump, regarding your concerns about the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program and its impact on Pennsylvania refineries and workers. Your letter was forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for response.

Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program and the impact this program has on stakeholders across the country. We further recognize the important role of the refining sector in ensuring the energy security of the United States, as well as the importance of refining jobs to the communities in which the refineries are located, in Pennsylvania and beyond.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Keith J. Rothfus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rothfus:

Thank you for your September 14, 2018 letter to President Donald Trump, regarding your concerns about the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program and its impact on Pennsylvania refineries and workers. Your letter was forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for response.

Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program and the impact this program has on stakeholders across the country. We further recognize the important role of the refining sector in ensuring the energy security of the United States, as well as the importance of refining jobs to the communities in which the refineries are located, in Pennsylvania and beyond.

The Agency is working on multiple actions that will affect the RFS program and its stakeholders. On October 9, President Trump directed EPA to undertake a single Clean Air Act rulemaking that would accomplish two objectives. First, the rule would modify our regulations to allow E15 to take advantage of the 1-pound per square inch (psi) Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver that currently applies to E10 during the summer months. Second, the rule would change certain elements of the renewable identification number (RIN) compliance system under the RFS program to improve both RIN market transparency and overall functioning of the RIN market in response to concerns from several refineries.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Scott Perry
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Perry:

Thank you for your September 14, 2018 letter to President Donald Trump, regarding your concerns about the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program and its impact on Pennsylvania refineries and workers. Your letter was forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for response.

Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program and the impact this program has on stakeholders across the country. We further recognize the important role of the refining sector in ensuring the energy security of the United States, as well as the importance of refining jobs to the communities in which the refineries are located, in Pennsylvania and beyond.

The Agency is working on multiple actions that will affect the RFS program and its stakeholders. On October 9, President Trump directed EPA to undertake a single Clean Air Act rulemaking that would accomplish two objectives. First, the rule would modify our regulations to allow E15 to take advantage of the 1-pound per square inch (psi) Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver that currently applies to E10 during the summer months. Second, the rule would change certain elements of the renewable identification number (RIN) compliance system under the RFS program to improve both RIN market transparency and overall functioning of the RIN market in response to concerns from several refineries.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Ryan A. Costello
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Costello:

Thank you for your September 14, 2018 letter to President Donald Trump, regarding your concerns about the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program and its impact on Pennsylvania refineries and workers. Your letter was forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for response.

Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program and the impact this program has on stakeholders across the country. We further recognize the important role of the refining sector in ensuring the energy security of the United States, as well as the importance of refining jobs to the communities in which the refineries are located, in Pennsylvania and beyond.

The Agency is working on multiple actions that will affect the RFS program and its stakeholders. On October 9, President Trump directed EPA to undertake a single Clean Air Act rulemaking that would accomplish two objectives. First, the rule would modify our regulations to allow E15 to take advantage of the 1-pound per square inch (psi) Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver that currently applies to E10 during the summer months. Second, the rule would change certain elements of the renewable identification number (RIN) compliance system under the RFS program to improve both RIN market transparency and overall functioning of the RIN market in response to concerns from several refineries.

The proposed provisions should directly address some of the concerns your letter raises. While details of the proposal have yet to be finalized, EPA is currently considering a number of regulatory reforms that could be included in the proposal, such as: prohibiting entities other than obligated parties from purchasing separated RINs; requiring public disclosure when RIN holdings held by an individual actor exceed specified limits; limiting the length of time a non-obligated party can hold RINs; and changing the timelines that apply to obligated parties regarding when RINs must be retired for compliance purposes. EPA will go through a notice-and-comment rulemaking process to provide the public an opportunity to submit input to the Agency. Our goal is to propose this rule in early 2019.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Ruben Gallego
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gallego:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

Acting Administrator Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program, as well as the impacts the program has on stakeholders across the country, in multiple different sectors and communities. The annual rulemakings in which EPA establishes required volumes of renewable fuel are foundational to the program, and we are committed to issuing the volume standards in a timely fashion. To that end, on November 30, 2018, Acting Administrator Wheeler signed the final rule establishing volume requirements under the RFS program for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2019, and volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2020. Due to the marketplace and technological challenges facing development of advanced biofuels, the final rule does use Clean Air Act waiver authorities to lower the volumes from those that Congress originally envisioned. Even with the use of that waiver authority, however, the final volumes grow relative to last year's required volumes. With respect to small refinery exemptions, after reviewing all comments on the proposal related to that topic, the final volume rule made no changes to the overall approach concerning those exemptions and how we calculate final volume obligations.

Separately, on October 9, 2018, President Trump directed EPA to undertake a single Clean Air Act rulemaking that would accomplish two objectives. First, the rule would modify our regulations to allow E15 to take advantage of the 1-pound per square inch (psi) Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver that currently applies to E10 during the summer months. Second, the rule would change certain elements of the renewable identification number (RIN) compliance system under the RFS program to improve both RIN market transparency and overall functioning of the RIN market in response to concerns from several refineries.

With respect to the E15-related portion of this rule, we understand that many stakeholders are interested in the details of this action. We have already begun work on the proposed rulemaking, which will be subject to a notice-and-comment process and will therefore present an opportunity for all stakeholders to review the proposal and provide input. We currently are



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Danny K. Davis
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Davis:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

Acting Administrator Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program, as well as the impacts the program has on stakeholders across the country, in multiple different sectors and communities. The annual rulemakings in which EPA establishes required volumes of renewable fuel are foundational to the program, and we are committed to issuing the volume standards in a timely fashion. To that end, on November 30, 2018, Acting Administrator Wheeler signed the final rule establishing volume requirements under the RFS program for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2019, and volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2020. Due to the marketplace and technological challenges facing development of advanced biofuels, the final rule does use Clean Air Act waiver authorities to lower the volumes from those that Congress originally envisioned. Even with the use of that waiver authority, however, the final volumes grow relative to last year's required volumes. With respect to small refinery exemptions, after reviewing all comments on the proposal related to that topic, the final volume rule made no changes to the overall approach concerning those exemptions and how we calculate final volume obligations.

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With respect to the E15-related portion of this rule, we understand that many stakeholders are interested in the details of this action. We have already begun work on the proposed rulemaking, which will be subject to a notice-and-comment process and will therefore present an opportunity for all stakeholders to review the proposal and provide input. We currently are



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Luis V. Gutiérrez
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gutiérrez:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

Acting Administrator Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program, as well as the impacts the program has on stakeholders across the country, in multiple different sectors and communities. The annual rulemakings in which EPA establishes required volumes of renewable fuel are foundational to the program, and we are committed to issuing the volume standards in a timely fashion. To that end, on November 30, 2018, Acting Administrator Wheeler signed the final rule establishing volume requirements under the RFS program for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2019, and volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2020. Due to the marketplace and technological challenges facing development of advanced biofuels, the final rule does use Clean Air Act waiver authorities to lower the volumes from those that Congress originally envisioned. Even with the use of that waiver authority, however, the final volumes grow relative to last year's required volumes. With respect to small refinery exemptions, after reviewing all comments on the proposal related to that topic, the final volume rule made no changes to the overall approach concerning those exemptions and how we calculate final volume obligations.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Linda T. Sánchez
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Sánchez:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

Acting Administrator Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program, as well as the impacts the program has on stakeholders across the country, in multiple different sectors and communities. The annual rulemakings in which EPA establishes required volumes of renewable fuel are foundational to the program, and we are committed to issuing the volume standards in a timely fashion. To that end, on November 30, 2018, Acting Administrator Wheeler signed the final rule establishing volume requirements under the RFS program for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2019, and volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2020. Due to the marketplace and technological challenges facing development of advanced biofuels, the final rule does use Clean Air Act waiver authorities to lower the volumes from those that Congress originally envisioned. Even with the use of that waiver authority, however, the final volumes grow relative to last year's required volumes. With respect to small refinery exemptions, after reviewing all comments on the proposal related to that topic, the final volume rule made no changes to the overall approach concerning those exemptions and how we calculate final volume obligations.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

Acting Administrator Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program, as well as the impacts the program has on stakeholders across the country, in multiple different sectors and communities. The annual rulemakings in which EPA establishes required volumes of renewable fuel are foundational to the program, and we are committed to issuing the volume standards in a timely fashion. To that end, on November 30, 2018, Acting Administrator Wheeler signed the final rule establishing volume requirements under the RFS program for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2019, and volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2020. Due to the marketplace and technological challenges facing development of advanced biofuels, the final rule does use Clean Air Act waiver authorities to lower the volumes from those that Congress originally envisioned. Even with the use of that waiver authority, however, the final volumes grow relative to last year's required volumes. With respect to small refinery exemptions, after reviewing all comments on the proposal related to that topic, the final volume rule made no changes to the overall approach concerning those exemptions and how we calculate final volume obligations.

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December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Meeks:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

Acting Administrator Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program, as well as the impacts the program has on stakeholders across the country, in multiple different sectors and communities. The annual rulemakings in which EPA establishes required volumes of renewable fuel are foundational to the program, and we are committed to issuing the volume standards in a timely fashion. To that end, on November 30, 2018, Acting Administrator Wheeler signed the final rule establishing volume requirements under the RFS program for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2019, and volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2020. Due to the marketplace and technological challenges facing development of advanced biofuels, the final rule does use Clean Air Act waiver authorities to lower the volumes from those that Congress originally envisioned. Even with the use of that waiver authority, however, the final volumes grow relative to last year's required volumes. With respect to small refinery exemptions, after reviewing all comments on the proposal related to that topic, the final volume rule made no changes to the overall approach concerning those exemptions and how we calculate final volume obligations.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Jimmy Gomez
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gomez:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

Acting Administrator Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program, as well as the impacts the program has on stakeholders across the country, in multiple different sectors and communities. The annual rulemakings in which EPA establishes required volumes of renewable fuel are foundational to the program, and we are committed to issuing the volume standards in a timely fashion. To that end, on November 30, 2018, Acting Administrator Wheeler signed the final rule establishing volume requirements under the RFS program for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2019, and volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2020. Due to the marketplace and technological challenges facing development of advanced biofuels, the final rule does use Clean Air Act waiver authorities to lower the volumes from those that Congress originally envisioned. Even with the use of that waiver authority, however, the final volumes grow relative to last year's required volumes. With respect to small refinery exemptions, after reviewing all comments on the proposal related to that topic, the final volume rule made no changes to the overall approach concerning those exemptions and how we calculate final volume obligations.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Salud O. Carbajal
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carbajal:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

Acting Administrator Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program, as well as the impacts the program has on stakeholders across the country, in multiple different sectors and communities. The annual rulemakings in which EPA establishes required volumes of renewable fuel are foundational to the program, and we are committed to issuing the volume standards in a timely fashion. To that end, on November 30, 2018, Acting Administrator Wheeler signed the final rule establishing volume requirements under the RFS program for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2019, and volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2020. Due to the marketplace and technological challenges facing development of advanced biofuels, the final rule does use Clean Air Act waiver authorities to lower the volumes from those that Congress originally envisioned. Even with the use of that waiver authority, however, the final volumes grow relative to last year's required volumes. With respect to small refinery exemptions, after reviewing all comments on the proposal related to that topic, the final volume rule made no changes to the overall approach concerning those exemptions and how we calculate final volume obligations.

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December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Norma J. Torres
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Torres:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

Acting Administrator Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program, as well as the impacts the program has on stakeholders across the country, in multiple different sectors and communities. The annual rulemakings in which EPA establishes required volumes of renewable fuel are foundational to the program, and we are committed to issuing the volume standards in a timely fashion. To that end, on November 30, 2018, Acting Administrator Wheeler signed the final rule establishing volume requirements under the RFS program for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2019, and volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2020. Due to the marketplace and technological challenges facing development of advanced biofuels, the final rule does use Clean Air Act waiver authorities to lower the volumes from those that Congress originally envisioned. Even with the use of that waiver authority, however, the final volumes grow relative to last year's required volumes. With respect to small refinery exemptions, after reviewing all comments on the proposal related to that topic, the final volume rule made no changes to the overall approach concerning those exemptions and how we calculate final volume obligations.

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December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Ruben J. Kihuen
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kihuen:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

Acting Administrator Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program, as well as the impacts the program has on stakeholders across the country, in multiple different sectors and communities. The annual rulemakings in which EPA establishes required volumes of renewable fuel are foundational to the program, and we are committed to issuing the volume standards in a timely fashion. To that end, on November 30, 2018, Acting Administrator Wheeler signed the final rule establishing volume requirements under the RFS program for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2019, and volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2020. Due to the marketplace and technological challenges facing development of advanced biofuels, the final rule does use Clean Air Act waiver authorities to lower the volumes from those that Congress originally envisioned. Even with the use of that waiver authority, however, the final volumes grow relative to last year's required volumes. With respect to small refinery exemptions, after reviewing all comments on the proposal related to that topic, the final volume rule made no changes to the overall approach concerning those exemptions and how we calculate final volume obligations.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Nanette Diaz Barragán
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Barragán:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

Acting Administrator Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program, as well as the impacts the program has on stakeholders across the country, in multiple different sectors and communities. The annual rulemakings in which EPA establishes required volumes of renewable fuel are foundational to the program, and we are committed to issuing the volume standards in a timely fashion. To that end, on November 30, 2018, Acting Administrator Wheeler signed the final rule establishing volume requirements under the RFS program for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2019, and volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2020. Due to the marketplace and technological challenges facing development of advanced biofuels, the final rule does use Clean Air Act waiver authorities to lower the volumes from those that Congress originally envisioned. Even with the use of that waiver authority, however, the final volumes grow relative to last year's required volumes. With respect to small refinery exemptions, after reviewing all comments on the proposal related to that topic, the final volume rule made no changes to the overall approach concerning those exemptions and how we calculate final volume obligations.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Adriano Espaillat
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Espaillat:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

Acting Administrator Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program, as well as the impacts the program has on stakeholders across the country, in multiple different sectors and communities. The annual rulemakings in which EPA establishes required volumes of renewable fuel are foundational to the program, and we are committed to issuing the volume standards in a timely fashion. To that end, on November 30, 2018, Acting Administrator Wheeler signed the final rule establishing volume requirements under the RFS program for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2019, and volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2020. Due to the marketplace and technological challenges facing development of advanced biofuels, the final rule does use Clean Air Act waiver authorities to lower the volumes from those that Congress originally envisioned. Even with the use of that waiver authority, however, the final volumes grow relative to last year's required volumes. With respect to small refinery exemptions, after reviewing all comments on the proposal related to that topic, the final volume rule made no changes to the overall approach concerning those exemptions and how we calculate final volume obligations.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Nydia M. Velázquez
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Velázquez:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

Acting Administrator Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program, as well as the impacts the program has on stakeholders across the country, in multiple different sectors and communities. The annual rulemakings in which EPA establishes required volumes of renewable fuel are foundational to the program, and we are committed to issuing the volume standards in a timely fashion. To that end, on November 30, 2018, Acting Administrator Wheeler signed the final rule establishing volume requirements under the RFS program for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2019, and volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2020. Due to the marketplace and technological challenges facing development of advanced biofuels, the final rule does use Clean Air Act waiver authorities to lower the volumes from those that Congress originally envisioned. Even with the use of that waiver authority, however, the final volumes grow relative to last year's required volumes. With respect to small refinery exemptions, after reviewing all comments on the proposal related to that topic, the final volume rule made no changes to the overall approach concerning those exemptions and how we calculate final volume obligations.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Albio Sires
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sires:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Donald M. Payne, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Payne:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

Acting Administrator Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program, as well as the impacts the program has on stakeholders across the country, in multiple different sectors and communities. The annual rulemakings in which EPA establishes required volumes of renewable fuel are foundational to the program, and we are committed to issuing the volume standards in a timely fashion. To that end, on November 30, 2018, Acting Administrator Wheeler signed the final rule establishing volume requirements under the RFS program for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2019, and volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2020. Due to the marketplace and technological challenges facing development of advanced biofuels, the final rule does use Clean Air Act waiver authorities to lower the volumes from those that Congress originally envisioned. Even with the use of that waiver authority, however, the final volumes grow relative to last year's required volumes. With respect to small refinery exemptions, after reviewing all comments on the proposal related to that topic, the final volume rule made no changes to the overall approach concerning those exemptions and how we calculate final volume obligations.

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December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Roybal-Allard:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

Acting Administrator Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program, as well as the impacts the program has on stakeholders across the country, in multiple different sectors and communities. The annual rulemakings in which EPA establishes required volumes of renewable fuel are foundational to the program, and we are committed to issuing the volume standards in a timely fashion. To that end, on November 30, 2018, Acting Administrator Wheeler signed the final rule establishing volume requirements under the RFS program for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2019, and volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2020. Due to the marketplace and technological challenges facing development of advanced biofuels, the final rule does use Clean Air Act waiver authorities to lower the volumes from those that Congress originally envisioned. Even with the use of that waiver authority, however, the final volumes grow relative to last year's required volumes. With respect to small refinery exemptions, after reviewing all comments on the proposal related to that topic, the final volume rule made no changes to the overall approach concerning those exemptions and how we calculate final volume obligations.

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With respect to the E15-related portion of this rule, we understand that many stakeholders are interested in the details of this action. We have already begun work on the proposed rulemaking, which will be subject to a notice-and-comment process and will therefore present an opportunity for all stakeholders to review the proposal and provide input. We currently are



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Darren Soto
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Soto:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

Acting Administrator Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program, as well as the impacts the program has on stakeholders across the country, in multiple different sectors and communities. The annual rulemakings in which EPA establishes required volumes of renewable fuel are foundational to the program, and we are committed to issuing the volume standards in a timely fashion. To that end, on November 30, 2018, Acting Administrator Wheeler signed the final rule establishing volume requirements under the RFS program for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2019, and volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2020. Due to the marketplace and technological challenges facing development of advanced biofuels, the final rule does use Clean Air Act waiver authorities to lower the volumes from those that Congress originally envisioned. Even with the use of that waiver authority, however, the final volumes grow relative to last year's required volumes. With respect to small refinery exemptions, after reviewing all comments on the proposal related to that topic, the final volume rule made no changes to the overall approach concerning those exemptions and how we calculate final volume obligations.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Juan Vargas
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Vargas:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

Acting Administrator Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program, as well as the impacts the program has on stakeholders across the country, in multiple different sectors and communities. The annual rulemakings in which EPA establishes required volumes of renewable fuel are foundational to the program, and we are committed to issuing the volume standards in a timely fashion. To that end, on November 30, 2018, Acting Administrator Wheeler signed the final rule establishing volume requirements under the RFS program for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2019, and volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2020. Due to the marketplace and technological challenges facing development of advanced biofuels, the final rule does use Clean Air Act waiver authorities to lower the volumes from those that Congress originally envisioned. Even with the use of that waiver authority, however, the final volumes grow relative to last year's required volumes. With respect to small refinery exemptions, after reviewing all comments on the proposal related to that topic, the final volume rule made no changes to the overall approach concerning those exemptions and how we calculate final volume obligations.

Separately, on October 9, 2018, President Trump directed EPA to undertake a single Clean Air Act rulemaking that would accomplish two objectives. First, the rule would modify our regulations to allow E15 to take advantage of the 1-pound per square inch (psi) Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver that currently applies to E10 during the summer months. Second, the rule would change certain elements of the renewable identification number (RIN) compliance system under the RFS program to improve both RIN market transparency and overall functioning of the RIN market in response to concerns from several refineries.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 13, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2018, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

Acting Administrator Wheeler and I fully appreciate the importance of the RFS program, as well as the impacts the program has on stakeholders across the country, in multiple different sectors and communities. The annual rulemakings in which EPA establishes required volumes of renewable fuel are foundational to the program, and we are committed to issuing the volume standards in a timely fashion. To that end, on November 30, 2018, Acting Administrator Wheeler signed the final rule establishing volume requirements under the RFS program for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2019, and volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2020. Due to the marketplace and technological challenges facing development of advanced biofuels, the final rule does use Clean Air Act waiver authorities to lower the volumes from those that Congress originally envisioned. Even with the use of that waiver authority, however, the final volumes grow relative to last year's required volumes. With respect to small refinery exemptions, after reviewing all comments on the proposal related to that topic, the final volume rule made no changes to the overall approach concerning those exemptions and how we calculate final volume obligations.

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With respect to the E15-related portion of this rule, we understand that many stakeholders are interested in the details of this action. We have already begun work on the proposed rulemaking, which will be subject to a notice-and-comment process and will therefore present an opportunity for all stakeholders to review the proposal and provide input. We currently are



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 4, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Carper:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 16, 2018, to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, regarding the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule. Acting Administrator Wheeler has asked that I respond on his behalf.

As you well know, On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA issued the proposed SAFE Vehicles rule. In that action, EPA proposed to amend certain existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks, and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. The proposed rule also requested comment on a wide range of alternatives and various modifications to the overall program.

We understand that there is broad interest in these issues. We plan to remain engaged with stakeholders, including auto manufacturers, parts suppliers, states, environmental, and other non-governmental groups as we work toward developing a final rule with NHTSA. We held three separate public hearings on the proposed rule in the following locations: Fresno, California; Dearborn, Michigan, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where we heard testimony from more than 300 citizens and groups interested in this rule. The comment period for the proposed rule closed on October 26, and we will review all comments and information submitted to the agencies.

We appreciate the careful and comprehensive assessment that you provided, and have added your letter to the docket for the rulemaking, where it will be part of the public record.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or 202-564-1142.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "W L Wehrum", is positioned above the printed name of the Assistant Administrator.

William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator

SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION FORM

Office of Air and Radiation

CONTROL NUMBER: AL-19-000-02468

DATE: Dec. 6, 2018

FROM: William Wehrum

TO: The Hon. Bill Posey & 6 Colleagues

COMMENTS: Sliders

OK TO MACHINE SIGN

William L. Wehrum

APPROVAL: 

DATE: 12/6/18

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
 United States Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow:

Thank you for your October 10, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) findings, conclusions, and recommendations in its July 2018 final report: "K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance" GAO-18-382. The EPA agrees with the GAO's findings, conclusions, and recommendations and has begun implementing the recommendations. The EPA's recent and ongoing activities are highlighted below.

Children are particularly vulnerable to lead and many spend a significant portion of their day in schools or in child care facilities. Testing drinking water where children spend much of their time and reducing sources of lead are extremely important to reducing their potential exposure. The EPA and the U.S. Department of Education are collaborating in support of state and school district efforts to reduce lead in drinking water. Both agencies are working together to support successful implementation of the Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grant, which was authorized in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act. The EPA announced this new \$20 million grant on September 21, 2018. Both agencies have begun collaborating on initiatives to provide training, tools, and other useful resources that support healthy drinking water for students. The EPA is also leveraging these activities to help improve consistency across EPA Regions in outreach, communication, and technical assistance related to lead testing in schools.

In support of the new grant program, the EPA recently released a revised *3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities, A Training, Testing and Taking Action Approach* guidance. The revised version is now available in an interactive web format and includes modules, customizable templates, and tools that can help schools when implementing their lead testing programs. The revisions to the 3Ts guidance include a discussion of the health effects of lead and an emphasis on the importance of setting a schedule to support schools and child care facilities in establishing long-term programs for protecting children from lead in drinking water. The guidance includes a new section in which the EPA reiterates there is no known safe level of lead, provides information about prioritizing remediation efforts, and recommends that, before sampling, schools and child care facilities establish a plan on how they will respond to sample results.

CONCURRENCES

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DATE A	12/24/18							

The EPA's Office of Water and Office of Children's Health Protection continue to collaborate to support school and child care lead in drinking water prevention initiatives and resources. The EPA is working with the U.S. Department of Education, the Administration of Children and Families and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and other stakeholders to ensure that school districts and child care programs are aware of these resources. The EPA is also working with federal agencies and other partners to update the 2005 Memorandum of Understanding for Reducing Lead Levels in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at klasen.matthew@epa.gov or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 4, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for your October 25, 2018, and November 9, 2018, letters to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concerning ethylene oxide (EtO) emissions at two facilities in Lake County, Illinois – Medline Industries, Inc. in Waukegan (Medline) and Vantage Specialty Chemicals, Inc. in Gurnee (Vantage).

Please know that the Agency shares your concerns and is taking actions to provide certainty to the surrounding communities. We are working with state and local air agencies, our federal partners (including ATSDR), and other EPA offices to take steps to address emissions of ethylene oxide, and are committed to continuing to provide information to the public throughout this process. Initial information is available on our ethylene oxide website at: <https://www.epa.gov/hazardous-air-pollutants-ethylene-oxide>. EPA is examining emissions information from both facilities (Medline and Vantage) to determine potential next steps.

Lake County, Illinois is one of a number of areas that the recently updated National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) identifies as potentially having an elevated chronic risk from ethylene oxide. NATA is a screening tool to identify areas of the country, pollutants, or types of pollution sources that may need to be examined further to better understand risks to public health. The elevated risks from ethylene oxide in the 2014 NATA are driven largely by a carcinogenicity value from the Agency's 2016 Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) assessment, which estimated that ethylene oxide is 50 to 60 times more potent than previous estimates. This value is used along with the information about air concentrations (exposure), to determine potential risk of cancer that may occur to someone who is continuously exposed to a specific chemical for 24 hours per day over 70 years.

The agency has been in discussions with Vantage regarding its ethylene oxide emissions at its Gurnee facility. Vantage has informed us that it previously reported emissions to TRI that were significantly higher than the facility's actual emissions and that it will be submitting corrections to its past TRI emissions data. Vantage has shared its recent emission calculations, and EPA is working to review its methodology for those – specifically its calculations for fugitive emissions. EPA will review that information, along with information from a 2017 stack test the company conducted with Illinois EPA approval. We will weigh this information in deciding our next steps with the facility, including whether to conduct further modeling and testing.

EPA is also in discussions with Medline regarding its emissions from their Waukegan facility, which will be sending updated information to EPA. Medline currently does not have backvent controls and is working to add those to its facility (actions similar to what Sterigenics did at their Willowbrook facility). Once completed, these controls are expected to reduce the facility's emissions. Here, too, the information we garner will contribute to our decisions on next steps and further analysis.

Again, thank you for your letters. For more information on NATA, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/national-air-toxics-assessment>. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matthew Davis in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at davis.matthew@epa.gov or at (202) 564-1267.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W L Wehrum', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 4, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Duckworth:

Thank you for your October 25, 2018, and November 9, 2018, letters to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concerning ethylene oxide (EtO) emissions at two facilities in Lake County, Illinois – Medline Industries, Inc. in Waukegan (Medline) and Vantage Specialty Chemicals, Inc. in Gurnee (Vantage).

Please know that the Agency shares your concerns and is taking actions to provide certainty to the surrounding communities. We are working with state and local air agencies, our federal partners (including ATSDR), and other EPA offices to take steps to address emissions of ethylene oxide, and are committed to continuing to provide information to the public throughout this process. Initial information is available on our ethylene oxide website at: <https://www.epa.gov/hazardous-air-pollutants-ethylene-oxide>. EPA is examining emissions information from both facilities (Medline and Vantage) to determine potential next steps.

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 4, 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Bradley S. Schneider
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Schneider:

Thank you for your October 25, 2018, and November 9, 2018, letters to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concerning ethylene oxide (EtO) emissions at two facilities in Lake County, Illinois – Medline Industries, Inc. in Waukegan (Medline) and Vantage Specialty Chemicals, Inc. in Gurnee (Vantage).

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William L. Wehrum
Assistant Administrator